



*My justice is suddenly approaching,
my salvation appears,
my arm is about to judge the peoples.
The coasts and islands will put their hope in me
and put their trust in my arm.
Raise your eyes to the heavens,
look down at the earth;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth wear out like clothing
and its inhabitants die like vermin,
but my salvation will last for ever
and my saving justice remain inviolable.
Listen to me, you who know what saving justice means,
a people who take my laws to heart:
do not fear people's taunts,
do not be alarmed by their insults,
for the moth will eat them like clothing,
the grub will devour them like wool,
but my saving justice will last for ever
and my salvation for all generations.*

Isaiah 51:5-8

God's reign of saving justice

Wednesday of Advent III

Advent challenges our thinking about the entire created universe, its purpose and its end. Do we as Christians have today a credible response to the secular notion that the universe just 'is' and has no meaning or purpose and an ends by petering out when physical processes their limit? Do we have a credible response to the secular idea that there is no inherent right or wrong, no value embedded in life's existence, but that everything is only what we as humans decide it shall be?

The great divide between the secular and Christian view of the world is to be found at this point of meaning. For life and the universe to have any meaning it can only be that behind all reality lies God. Take God out of the picture and life is without any point or significance at all. As Christians, however, we need to reflect deeply on the question of how God and the universe are related.