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Based on the gospel for Sunday 24 January – Mark 1:14-20

“The time has come,” Jesus said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

These are Jesus’ first words in Mark’s Gospel, as he begins his ministry, and they are full of urgency, invitation, and challenge.

Jesus continues to proclaim this Kingdom, the place where God reigns and all people can flourish, throughout his preaching. It is a Kingdom where all people are included and welcomed, where captives are set free, those who are hungry are fed and where all God’s creation lives in restored relationship.

We live in the tension between the Kingdom of God that is present to us already and that which is yet to come. Amidst the messiness and brokenness of the world we may sometimes miss glimpses of glory. Yet, the Kingdom which came near in Jesus, continues to break through as we challenge injustice and seek to live in solidarity with our brothers and sisters across the world.

How then can we respond more fully to Jesus’ call to repent, to reorientate our lives, and believe the good news? As we celebrate the second Word of God Sunday, we might wish to pray for a greater openness to and love for his Word, which surely has the power to transform our lives and our world.

Gracious God,
Inspire us with a vision of your Kingdom in the world,
a world where peace is built with justice and all the gifts of creation are respected and shared.
Strengthen us with your word so we may make it a reality.
Amen.



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This reflection and prayer were written by Caroline Stanton from our Theology Team.



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