

ADVENT DEVOTIONS
Tuesday, 9 December 2025

Scripture: Isaiah 12:2-6 (NRSV)

*Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say on that day: **Give thanks** to the Lord, **Call on his name; make known his deeds** among the nations; **Proclaim** that his name is exalted. **Sing praises** to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; **let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.***

Words and their meanings have always fascinated me. One of my favorite words is *catawampus*! According to the small piece of paper on the side of my refrigerator, *catawampus* is an adjective which means *askew* or *awry*. As an octogenarian, I have had a few days like that, wondering where to focus my energy or whether I have the energy to focus.

In this season of Advent our daily devotions help us refocus and today's citation from Isaiah provides us with a recipe of action words. "But Christmas is coming," you say, "and I have so much to do – gifts to buy and wrap, meals to plan, decorate the tree . . .!" Yes, the hurry flurry of the holidays often dulls the deeper heart call to "get quiet." The challenge is to make time to *give thanks, call on his name; make known his deeds; proclaim, sing praises, shout aloud and sing for joy!* As our hymn tune reminds us, *Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love* (ELW 631).

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