

**Thought for the Week**  
**8th December 2019**  
**2nd Sunday in Advent**

The readings for this Sunday couldn't be better for the week ahead as we face another general election, and all the clamour and triumphalism it brings. More than ever, we need *'a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.'*

Humankind has yearned for ever for a world where the young child can put her hand into the viper's lair and come to no harm. God wants this for us, and we can help make sure that the hope this vision brings stays alive. Some of the responsibility lies with us. If we listen to God's word and believe in his message that he loves us, we can trust in his promises. And that can help us to work for a world where calf and lion feed together.

We know that Advent is a time of waiting. What are we waiting for? Where are we hoping to get to? This Advent, I am reflecting on where I want to arrive. What do I really want? What do I really, really want?

When I stay with that thought, I know that all the things that this world offers me are not enough. They will fade, they will trick me, they are illusive and transitory.

What I want is the promise that God gives me, I want His spirit to rest on me and to fill me with his peace, as the waters swell the sea. In that hope, I can love others better and only when I do, will there be a chance of the world the psalmist describes so beautifully.

Katie Livesey