

Advent 2017

Week One

Tuesday, December 5

Prayers for candle-lighting

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. [*Light the candle*]

You meet those who gladly do right,

those who remember you in your ways.

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Isaiah 64:8 !

Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;

we are the clay, and you are our potter;

we are all the work of your hand.

Quite a few years ago now, when I was working as a calligrapher, I lettered a large sign for a local museum, listing the exhibitions in the various galleries. The director had the sign framed and hung it on the wall of the entrance hall. When I went to the opening of the current exhibitions, I entered, took off my coat, and turned to check my reflection in what I had thought was a mirror. Imagine my surprise when what I took to be a mirror turned out to be my own sign. I had mistaken my handwriting for the image of my face.

Ever since that experience, I have imagined God, who formed us, seeing God's

own image in us. As the works of *our* hands curiously convey the essence of *us*, so we curiously convey something of the essence of God in our world: God's holiness, justice, mercy, and love in our flesh and bone, in our human emotions, and human commitments. We may be but humble clay, and yet, as the work of God's hand, we reflect our maker, and when we carry out the will of God in the world, we shine.

For Reflection:

As you go through your day, imagine God shaping you through the relationships and events you encounter.

How will you mirror forth your maker through your words and actions? When you do, bask in the sense of God's blessing.