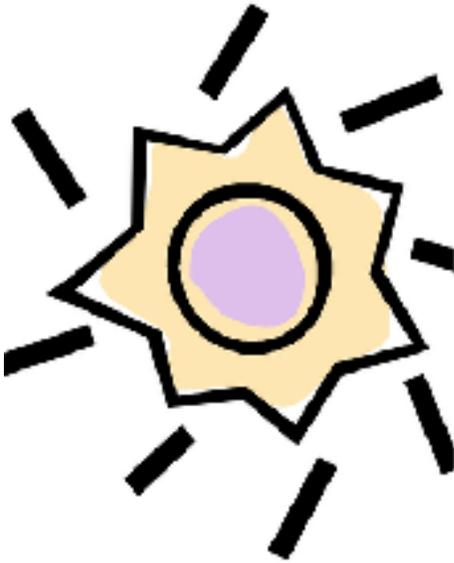


Advent Day 24 (written by Deb Bakken)



Sun

Luke 1:76-79

"And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet

into the path of peace." (NIV 1984)

It's hard to find a path when you are in the dark. When you wake up in the middle of the night in your tent on a camping trip, you need a flashlight to find the rest rooms. Without the light, that path would be hard to find.

The path of peace is also a hard path to find. Countries war against each other, trying to get better lives for their people. Lawmakers argue about who should pay for what, so that everyone can have what they need. Even in families, disagreements spoil what should be happy times together. The path of peace is hard to find. It's like looking for a path in the dark.

Because of the tender mercy of God, the rising Sun, Jesus, came from heaven. Through his Word, he shines on those living in darkness. That's us. We are too often in the dark of our sins, looking for a path to peace. Jesus shows us the path.

Jesus paved the path to peace with his death on the cross. This is not the peace path that most people are looking for. The peace we find is the peace of knowing our sins are forgiven by God. Once we know we are forgiven, we can forgive and help others.

Prayer: Lord, help us to find our peace in your promises. Amen.