**Advent Devotional December 25, 2026**

**Scripture**

**Zechariah 2:10-13**

*Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion! For I will come and dwell in your midst, says the Lord. 11 Many nations shall join themselves to the Lord on that day and shall be my people, and I will dwell in your midst. And you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you. 12 The Lord will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land and will again choose Jerusalem.*

**Devotion**

**The Rev. Dr. Allan M. Irizarry-Graves Sr. '17, Board Member**

Fanny Crobsy, a prolific 19th-century American hymnist and mission advocate who penned over 8,000 hymns that spoke of the beauty of God, is most known for her works "Blessed Assurance" and "To God Be the Glory." However, as a child attending church, I remember hearing a lesser-known hymn that always captivated me titled "I Am Thine, O Lord." In the refrain, Crosby writes these words:

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To the cross where Thou hast died;
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To Thy precious, bleeding side.

What a beautiful reminder that we as believers should long to be pulled closer to God. But even more beautiful is the reality in today's Scripture that God draws near to us.

In these four short verses, Zechariah presents what it looks like for God to draw near to us when the Lord declares the promise of nearness (vs.10). What I love most about this promise is that God does not send a representative on behalf of Godself. Instead, God promises to dwell among God's people. Not in a diluted or subpar sense, but in the fullness of who God is. In addition to the promise of nearness, Zechariah shows us that this nearness is extended to all (vv. 11-12). The God who promises to dwell in Zion extends this presence to "many nations" and reveals to us that God's presence isn't only for a select few; it's available to whomever will accept the gift of God's presence.

What a great gift. But a gift this great is not to be taken lightly, because nearness demands reverence (v. 13). After the call to sing and rejoice in v. 10, Zechariah finished this chapter by calling for silence. When we think about the fact that God draws near to us, we should respond in awe and reverence, because some gifts are too great for words.

In the loudness of this Advent season, may we find time to sit silently in awe of the gift of God's nearness to us.

**Prayer**

Sit silently for 60 to 90 seconds in awe of the fact that God chose to draw near to us. End the prayer by thanking God for specific moments in your life when you felt God near. Amen.