

Sun., Dec. 11, 2011

The Rev. Dr. Ron Cole-Turner, H. Parker Sharp Professor of Theology and Ethics

Scripture

Amos 9:11-15

¹¹On that day I will raise up
the booth of David that is fallen,
and repair its breaches,
and raise up its ruins,
and rebuild it as in the days of old;
¹²in order that they may possess the remnant of Edom
and all the nations who are called by my name,
says the LORD who does this.

¹³The time is surely coming, says the LORD,
when the one who plows shall overtake the one who reaps,
and the treader of grapes the one who sows the seed;
the mountains shall drip sweet wine,
and all the hills shall flow with it.

¹⁴I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel,
and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine,
and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit.

¹⁵I will plant them upon their land,
and they shall never again be plucked up
out of the land that I have given them,
says the LORD your God

Devotional

Ours is not the first generation to live through an economic crisis. But for all those who work without job security or health benefits or fair wages—and for those with no work at all—the past is no consolation. Winter threatens, and for too many this year Christmas brings something new and painful: The sorrow of not being able to buy gifts for one’s own children.

Especially this year, as Americans protest in our cities and politicians throw blame at each other, we need more than ever to hear the word of the Lord, the word of our faithful God, spoken afresh to God’s chosen: “I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit” (Amos 9:14).

Prayer

O God, strengthen us by your promises and sustain us by your steadfast love, through Jesus Christ our Savior; Amen.