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MONDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

A MEETING AT THE MOUNTAIN

The Text: Isaiah 2:1-5

God has called a meeting, and you're invited! The good news is that you won't have to work on a committee. This gathering will be like a feast for the whole world to celebrate. In a time of war, there will be peace. In heartache, there will be joy.

The scary news: the journey begins in the dark, at night, up a mountain. Sounds ominous, but isn't that our reality? We live in a dark world of sin, and we don't know where to turn. Wars, rage, strife, hatred, and division are all around. Uncertainty about the future abounds. But I can promise that by the time we arrive on the journey, we will crown the true King and our lives will be filled with joy.

Instead of being overcome by despair, we turn to a prophet named Isaiah, who knows about God's power in darkness. In the dark, seeds sprout, yeast grows, prayers are spoken, and the stars shine brightly. He gives us two tools to guide us: the light from the stars and the law of the Lord. He illuminates our path from above and below. We can join God this month by looking to creation and living and trusting in God's word.

Skilled mountain climbers have learned something similar. The last ascent to the world's highest peaks begins at night. Climbers don't scale Everest, Ranier, or Kilimanjaro during the day. Lightning storms roll in around 2:00-3:00 p.m. To avoid being struck, they do four things. They follow instructions from experienced guides who wear headlamps. They lighten their load to carry the least amount of weight. They start the last ascent at night to arrive at the summit at sunrise. They depend on light from the stars and the moon—not the sun.

Are you groping in the dark, unsure where to turn? God has invited you to join him. Lighten the load you're carrying. You won't need all that stuff where we're going. Look up to the heavens. A star is rising in the east, pointing the way. Listen to Isaiah's instructions. He's an experienced guide, and many others know the Lord's laws.