

DECEMBER 6, 2015

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



BARUCH 5:1–9

PSALM 126:1–2, 2–3, 4–5, 6

PHILIPPIANS 1:4–6, 8–11

LUKE 3:1–6

REFLECTION

Aside from the necessary love and support found in families, friendships are the most important relationships to all of us—no matter our age. Have you ever wondered what kind of friends Jesus had growing up or how he acted as a friend toward others? Do you think he preached lofty pieces of wisdom to his peers, or did he act more normally? Today's Second Reading is rich in love from St. Paul to those in Phillipi. Whenever I read the first line, I smile and think how blessed I am to have certain relationships and how I love to support, encourage, and remind my friends of how amazing they are. Who are those friends in your life for whom you can say: "I am confident that the one who began a good work in you (a.k.a. God!) will continue to complete it"? Just as much as we need others to remind us of our strengths, we too need to be people who reflect the light of Christ to our friends and family. St. Paul continues to talk about being "pure and blameless for the day of Christ" (Philippians 1:10). That is not easy in our society. There are too many temptations; too many options to be led astray. Our friends help ground us and can help us witness the way of Christ, even without words.



**"WITH YOU BY
MY SIDE"**

DAVID HAAS

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=b9sRANqNB1I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9sRANqNB1I)

ACTION

Reread today's Second Reading. As you do, consider whom you might say this to and how you could rewrite it, if necessary, in your own language. Choose to send the message to your friends, making sure to include the Scripture reference. In this way, you will not only be a person of support and love, but a person reflecting the light of Christ. If you are feeling brave and bold, write a prayer specifically for each friend and send it to them. It might feel strange, but you never know how God can use you to help a friend.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- In what areas of your life do you need to be a better witness of God's love to your friends?
- Who are the friends who help you reach God and what do they do that is unique from other friends?
- Are you afraid of telling those you love how you feel? Are you afraid to share Christ's love with them? Why? What steps can you take to better share your love, and God's love, with others?