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## Second Sunday of Advent – Cycle C

by SR. JULIEMARIE MCDONALD, SND on 12/14/2018  
in ADVENT

### “Father, forgive them.” Second Sunday of Advent – Cycle C

December 9, 2018

Read: Baruch 5: 1-9 Psalm 126: 1-6 Phil 1: 4-6,8-11 Lk 3: 1-6

#### Reflection:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,” cries John the Baptist. John was a preacher always on the move. He prepared for the coming of the Lord by preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin. John called his disciples to turn their lives around. Like his disciples, perhaps we need a change of mind and heart. This may call for a leveling, straightening, and smoothing out of our lives. Why? Perhaps we have lost our balance, our values, or priorities. In our lived experiences, maybe without even noticing, we have become unbalanced. We may have taken the easier crooked path, the easy way out. Perhaps we just need to smooth out some rough edges. The Advent season gives us time to set things right in our lives.

With repentance comes the call for forgiveness and forgiving. Any number of things may put us on the crooked path: selfishness, prejudice, pride, or impatience. It is time to ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten the dark areas of our lives. On the cross Jesus

### About Sr. Juliemarie McDonald, SND

Sister Juliemarie McDonald joined the Sisters of Notre Dame of Chardon, Ohio in 1951. She holds an MA in English Studies from John Carroll University MA in Scripture from St. Charles Seminary. After 32 years of teaching classes ranging from first grade to college level, she then became a researcher, campus minister, director of religious education and a pastoral minister in Mease Hospital in Dunedin, Florida. In her semi-retirement, Sister Juliemarie writes reflections and faith sharing sessions for the young sisters in formation in Africa, Philippines, Korea, India and the USA. Her spare time is spent as a crafter.



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images a loving and forgiving God. As God forgives us, we are to forgive others. What prevents us from forgiving? Who do we need to forgive?

St. Paul encourages us when he tells us, "the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." (Phil 1 :6) Conversion is a long process. It may take our entire lifetime "to turn away from sin" so that we can "turn to" true gospel living. Let Paul's words be a comfort as we "make his paths straight." (Lk 3-4)

**Quote:** "Forgive yourself for your faults and your mistakes and move on." Les Brown

**Prayer:**

Lord, help us to turn to true gospel living. Be with us as we try to turn from the crooked paths we have wandered down. Only You can turn our lives around, only You can complete the good work You have begun in us.

**Listen:** Take time to listen to the whispering voice of God. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to us about **forgiveness**

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