

## Advent Calendar: Day 18

The reflections for this week are centered around the readings for this Sunday's texts  
1 Samuel 2:1-10, Romans 12:9-16b, Luke 1:39-57

### Romans 12:12

Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

Where there is great hope, necessarily there are small hopes for the immediate future.  
These hopes have their basis and strength only in the great hope...

*Karl Barth*

Faith walks simply, childlike, between the darkness of human life  
and the hope of what is to come.

*Catherine de Huech Doherty*

Through all the advents of our life that we celebrate goes the longing for the final Advent,  
where it says: "Behold, I make all things new." Advent is a time of waiting/ Our whole life,  
however, is Advent - that is, a time of waiting for the ultimate, for the time when there will be  
a new heaven and a new earth, when all people are brothers and sisters and one rejoices in  
the words of the angels: "On earth peace to those on whom God's favor rests,"

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*