

*Jacob dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!... Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.'* Genesis 28: 12, 16.

Jacob is in a predicament. Having stolen the birthright intended for his brother he is in trouble and has to flee for his life. As he takes his rest on an uncomfortable bed of rocks he is given this vision of heaven as a sign that, even though he is far from home and filled with natural anxiety, God is always present.

Perhaps that's where we find ourselves this Advent. We may not have engaged in double-dealing with our kin on a similar scale to Jacob, but we do find ourselves in a place of collective anxiety because of the real challenges with which the Covid-19 pandemic faces us. 'The night is dark, and I am far from home' as St John Henry Newman puts it. God makes a way to be present to Jacob and God makes a greater way to be present to us in Jesus Christ. Think about the ways in which we are experiencing God's presence in our lives today.