

*From the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt, I have persistently sent all my servants the prophets to them, day after day. Jeremiah 7:25.*

The message that the prophets 'speak forth' from God is at times one of comfort and consolation, and at other times one of judgement and warning, but is always a part of the concern of God for his people. The prophets are sent *persistently* to draw Israel's attention back to their covenant relationship with God, a word that appears nine times in the book of Jeremiah alone to describe how often God sends them. In fact, the word which has been translated *persistently* here is a word used for the relentless burden of labour at the start of the day - the image is of God getting up early in the day to dispatch the prophets on their mission of mercy to his people.

Their ministry is part of God's saving action of his people, and they prepare us to receive Jesus by showing us that we are made for friendship with God, and that our lives have an ultimate purpose and destiny. We need to take some time today to delight in the loving attention that God gives to us, for he is using this Advent season of grace to draw each one of us persistently to his heart of love.