Silver and Gold Have We None



The Compass Center

The Church of Steadfast Love

Advent 2026

During the Season of Advent, we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Christ. We celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas, and we remember that in him the Kingdom of God came to earth. Now we wait expectantly for his return, not as the baby that was once worshipped in the manger, but as our Savior that will come again and restore all things unto himself.

As Christmas approaches the craziness of our lives traditionally increases as gift buying and parties are added to our daily routines, but not everyone has the comforts that many of us enjoy without giving them a second thought. It is for this reason that we call our devotional, "Silver and Gold Have We None." Those whom we serve have not the material possessions that our society prizes, but they have the wonderful gifts of hope and promise. And we, those who find ourselves on the streets this holiday season, in the shelters, and securely housed, would like to share of ourselves with you this season.

May you find this devotional useful for increasing and deepening faith as you reflect on the Living Word, and on our humble insights.

Peace be with you this Advent season and throughout the coming year. Come Lord Jesus.

Amen.

Pr. Kristy

1st Sunday in Advent/Primer Domingo en Adviento

Mark 13:24-37

24 "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and
the moon will not give its light, 25 and the stars will be falling from
heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 26 Then they
will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory.
27 Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four
winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. 28 "From the
fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts
forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you
see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very
gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all
these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but
my words will not pass away. 32 "But about that day or hour no one
knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.
33 Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. 34
It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his
slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to
be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when
the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at
cockcrow, or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he
comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

I believe that angels have always been with me keeping me safe and no one is going to know the hour or the day when things will happen, but we must be on the watch. I think that God will restore the earth to good health and happier days. I look forward to that day.

-Billy Levins

Monday, November 30/Lunes 4 de Noviembre

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

1Co 1:3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ. 4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the
grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every
way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every
kind— 6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among
you— 7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for
the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to
the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus
Christ. 9 God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of
his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Disciples are learners and, with His compassion and tender loving kindness, God by His power graciously enriches lessons and messages which come through empowered teachers and preachers. He, with the Holy Spirit of Truth, ensure that hearers of God's word have exactly what they need to hear, in a way that helps them understand and experience a necessary realization about something that requires application of the message to make a change. As hearers regard God's enriching power and presence, they are able to receive wisdom enabling them to make better decisions and be loving "doers of the word and not hearers only." The learners, during a Spirit-enriched lesson or preached message, have a deep sense of fellowship with God. At the same time, they experience a sense of sweet, edifying spiritual fellowship with one another, as fellow disciples of Christ.

-E. S. Wiseman

Tuesday, December 1/Martes, 1 de Diciembre

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth 2 before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! 3 Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. 4 O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. 6 You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves. 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. Ps 80:17 But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. 18 Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name. 19 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Psalm 80 is a communal lament where the people of Israel cry out to God, referred to as the Shepherd of Israel, as King for restoration and salvation during a time of distress. The Psalm emphasizes the need for God's presence and favor, highlighting their past relationship with Him and their current suffering.
The Shepherd of Israel is God.
***Who is Ephraim? The 2nd son of Joseph and Asaneth, adopted by grandfather Jacob and became the father of the tribe of Ephraim, one of the 12 tribes of Israel. His name means "fruitful", reflecting how he will be blessed over his older brother, Mannasseh.**
***Who is Benjamin? Youngest son of Jacob and Rachel. Father of the tribe of Benjamin. Found in Jewish, Christian, and Muslim tradition. His birth was marked by the death of his mother, who named him, Ben-oni, meaning "Son of my sorrow." But Jacob renamed him Benjamin, "Son of the right hand".**
***Who is Manasseh? 14th King of Judah. Reigned for 55 years (approx. 697-642). He is known for his evil reign, which included idolatry and persecution of the faithful. Later he repented and restored worship to God. He began his reign at 12 years old.**

-Ron Warren

Wednesday, December 2/Miercoles, 2 de Diciembre

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains
would quake at your presence— 2 " as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire
causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the
nations might tremble at your presence! 3 When you did awesome deeds that we did
not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. 4 From ages
past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him. 5 You meet those who gladly do right, those
who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you
hid yourself we transgressed. 6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all
our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities,
like the wind, take us away. 7 There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to
take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into
the hand of our iniquity. 8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and
you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. 9 Do not be exceedingly angry,
O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your
people.

This group of verses is thought to have been written in the post exile period. Israel was returning , but to what ? It is a lament over Israels sin and the consequences of that, but at the same time toward the end of the reading a prayer to God asking for forgiveness, I am reminded of the Gospel stories of the son returning to his father and asking for forgiveness after wasting his inheritance in a foreign land. That Gospel story continues with the father throwing a feast to honor his son, now returning and repentant. I am reminded of the early part of the Gospel where the message of repentance is preached. along with a message of returning to God. Repentance can be seen as a "turning of our ways", returning to God. I often think of that message, of turning from the life that lead to sin and death to the life of answering God's call to be in relationship with Him. Christmas is the start of that message to us with the humble birth of Christ , not in a palace, but in a manger. That is a reminder to us to be humble, and to humble ourselves before God, and each other. We are reminded that "we have sinned…but we need to be saved" God has offered that chance to us, through his love, mercy and forgiveness and an opportunity to reconnect with Him.

-Geoff Goucher

Thursday, December 3/Jueves, 3 de Diciembre

2 Peter 3:8-15a

[8] But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is
like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. [9] The
Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is
patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to
repentance. [10] But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then
the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be
dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will
be disclosed. [11] Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way,
what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and
godliness, [12] waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God,
because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the
elements will melt with fire? [13] But, in accordance with his promise,
we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at
home. [14] Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things,
strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; [15] and
regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

I am waiting for the day to come desperately like everyone, and I am still trying to do the best that I can. This is such a beautiful verse. I have always known that God is my Father. I am always praying and trying to do the right thing. We aren't perfect, but as long as we try to do right and know Jesus as the Christ, I believe whole heartedly, that we will rise with him to heaven. I know that. The Lord is so beautiful and divine.

-John Wessman

Friday, December 4/Viernes, 4 de Diciembre

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

1 Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. 2 You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. Selah 8 Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. 9 Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. 10 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. 11 Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. 12 The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. 13 Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

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1 SEÑOR, tú has sido bueno con tu tierra; restauraste el bienestar del pueblo de Jacob. 2 Perdonaste la maldad de tu pueblo, y cubriste todos sus pecados. Selah. 8 Yo prestaré atención a lo que dice el SEÑOR Dios. Él hablará de paz para su pueblo, para su gente fiel, siempre y cuando no vuelvan a la vida sin sentido que vivían antes. 9 Él está listo para salvar a los que lo respetan
para que podamos vivir con honor en nuestra tierra. 10 Entonces el fiel amor de Dios se encontrará con los que le son leales. La justicia y la paz los saludarán con un beso. 11 De la gente de la tierra brotará la verdad; desde el cielo Dios les mostrará la justicia. 12 El SEÑOR nos dará mucho bien,
llenará la tierra de buenos frutos. 13 La justicia irá delante de Dios, preparándole el camino.

¡Amen Aleluya! Hilo pacto con El y le dijo que siempre y que le ¡va a hacer un trono y que los cielos van a estar felices por sus maravillas Jehová tiene dominio sobre el mar, el hizo los cielos y la tierra a las a ves a todo animal, ya nosotros los humanos Jehová es el escudo que va delante de nosotros todo el tiempo. Aleluya yo puse el socorro sobre Jehová yo a él clamare mi padre eres tú mi salvador. ¡Aleluya, Amen!

Amen Hallelujah! He made a covenant with Him and told Him that always He will make a throne for Him and that the heavens will be happy for His wonders. Jehovah has dominion over the sea, He made the heavens and the earth, as well as every animal, and we humans. Jehovah is the shield that goes before us all the time. Hallelujah, I put my help in Jehovah, I will cry out to Him; Father, You are my Savior. Hallelujah Amen!

-Margarito Perez

Saturday, December 5/Sabado, 5 de Diciembre

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.
3 A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
5 Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
6 A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.
7 The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass.
8 The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.
9 Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"
10 See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.
11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

God is always with us!

-Kristin Wilson-Weiberg

2nd Sunday in Advent/La segunda domingo en Adviento

Mark 1:1-8

Mk 1:1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the
Son of God. 2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I
am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare
your way; 3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"
4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming
a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And
people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people
of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by
him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John
was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his
waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 He proclaimed,
"The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I
am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his
sandals. 8 I have baptized you with water; but he will
baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

I got baptized in San Quentin Penitentiary in CA in 2009 and nothing has happened to me since. I have been straight and am proud of being straight. That turned my life around, if not I would be in the cemetery or prison. Receiving the Holy Spirit changes one's whole life. People don't know it is such a blessing just to be here. Other than that, I just thank God for being here. The Holy Spirit descending from heaven God's voice calling out, I love that!

-Kevin A

Monday, December 7/Lunes, 7 de Diciembre

Micah 4:1-5

4 In days to come the mountain of the LORD's temple shall be
established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised up
above the hills. Peoples shall stream to it, **2** and many nations shall
come and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth
instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. **3** He shall judge
between many peoples and shall arbitrate between strong nations far
away; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears
into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more; **4** but they shall all sit under
their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make
them afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. **5** For all
the peoples walk, each in the name of its god, but we will walk in the
name of the LORD our God forever and ever.

Micah 4:1-5 envisions a future era of universal peace, justice, and divine guidance, where God's kingdom is exalted and all nations come together under His rule. The weak and the afflicted are strengthened and included. God's law and guidance extends to all people regardless of race or religion. It talks of Mount Zion being the highest of all Mountains of the Lord's House. Micah 4:1-5 is a promise of future peace and a spiritual call for believers today to pursue justice, reconciliation, and that all shall have God in their communities regardless of religion. As for me, I will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever.

-Dean McBee

Tuesday, December 8/Martes, 8 de Diciembre

Micah 4:6-13

6 On that day, says the Lord, I will assemble the lame and gather those
who have been driven away and those whom I have afflicted.
7 The lame I will make the remnant, and those who were cast off, a
strong nation, and the Lord will reign over them in Mount Zion
now and forevermore. **8** And you, O tower of the flock, hill of
daughter Zion, to you it shall come, the former dominion shall come,
the sovereignty of daughter Jerusalem. **9** Now why do you cry aloud?
Is there no king in you? Has your counselor perished, that pangs
have seized you like a woman in labor? **10** Writhe and groan, O
daughter Zion, like a woman in labor, for now you shall go forth from
the city and camp in the open country; you shall go to Babylon.
There you shall be rescued; there the Lord will redeem you
from the hands of your enemies. **11** Now many nations are
assembled against you, saying, “Let her be profaned, and let our eyes
gaze upon Zion.” **12** But they do not know the thoughts of the Lord;
they do not understand his plan, that he has gathered them as sheaves
to the threshing floor. **13** Arise and thresh, O daughter Zion, for I will
make your horn iron and your hoofs bronze; you shall beat in pieces
many peoples and shall devote their gain to the Lord, their wealth to
the Lord of the whole earth.

The Lord's Plan

The Book of Micah 4:6-13 is a prophecy; this prophecy is about Israel in the old days, oppressed by the city of Samaria. Israel cries out to laud God, similar to a woman in labor, and God hears the cry and safe then. For us today, we are oppressed by the devil; we pray, and one day Jesus comes to gather together the people who believe in Him, and everybody who believes in Jesus will live together with God forever. Amen.

-Enrique Urizar

Wednesday, December 9/Miercoles, 9 de Diciembre

Luke 21:34-38

Jesus taught: "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man."

Every day he was teaching in the temple, and at night he would go out and spend the night on the Mount of Olives, as it was called. And all the people would get up early in the morning to listen to him in the temple.

Years ago I worked overnight as a security guard and also as a call facilitator for deaf and hard of hearing callers. I worked another job weekday mornings, too- I had such a hard time sometimes *staying alert,* especially in the middle of the night.

How could we ever be *alert at all times,* like Jesus tells us to be? The *worries of this life* that he speaks about- those can get all of our attention. We get tired, we get distracted, we have to sleep and maybe we do a kind of sleepwalking through a lot of our days, feeling that we have just enough energy, or not quite enough, to deal with whatever and whomever is directly in front of us and no more, thank you very much.

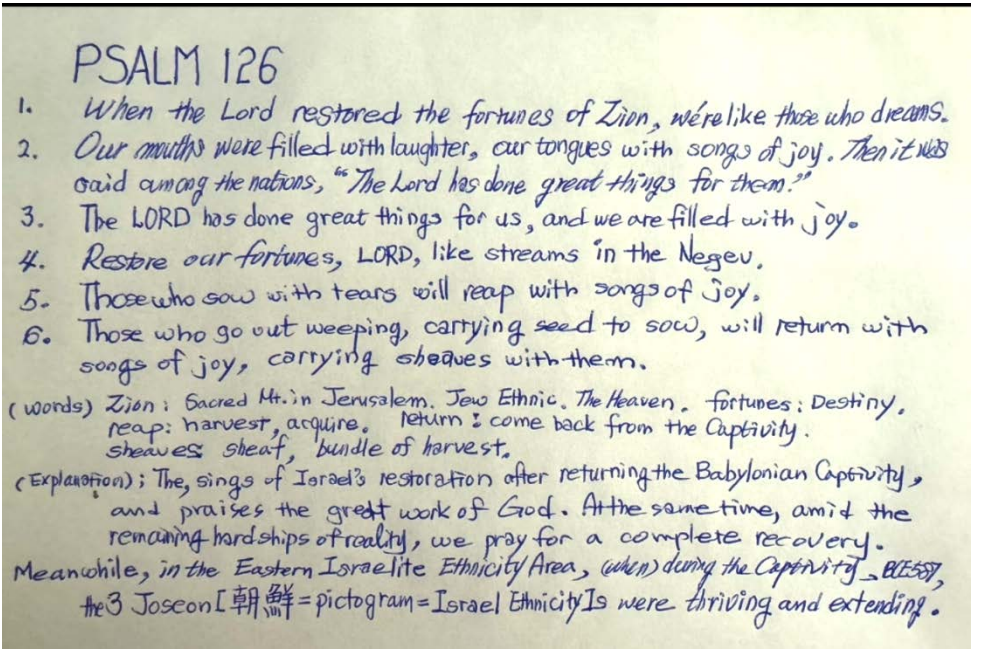
We can feel that way, but God is busy among us and through us, doing amazing and beautiful things every day that I pray we don't miss. Every bit of kindness between us, every welcome, every time any of us has what we need, they all come from God and those gifts keep coming whether we are alert to see them or not. God is that good! May God give you and give me open eyes and open hearts to see these things for ourselves and to encourage one another, during this Advent time and all year long.

-Glen Aaberg

Thursday, December 10/ Jueves, 10 de Diciembre

Psalm 126

[1] When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
[2] Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."
[3] The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.
[4] Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.
[5] May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.
[6] Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.



-Hongseok Seo

Friday, December 11/Viernes, 11 de Diciembre

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Isa 61:1 The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has
anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up
the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the
prisoners; 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of
vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 3 to provide for those who
mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness
instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will
be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his
glory. 4 They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former
devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many
generations.
Isa 61:8 For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will
faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting
covenant with them. 9 Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. 10 I will greatly rejoice
in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me
with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of
righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride
adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and
as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause
righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

I don't have a lot to say about this wonderful text because it speaks for itself.

I strive to do work like Isaiah, and God Bless anyone who does, for this is the most beautiful work that can be done.

It is the work of salvation.

-Charles Smith

Saturday, December 12/Sabado, 12 de Diciembre

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing,
18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise the words of prophets,
21 but test everything; hold fast to what is good; 22 abstain from every form of evil. 23 May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

I love this text. Just like Bob Marley said, "One Love." And that's for everyone to hear, good and bad you know. May the word continue to inspire as it was spoken long ago.

-Joel Redfeathers

3rd Sunday in Advent/3 Domingo en Adviento

John 1:6-8, 19-28

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as
a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8
He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 19 This
is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites
from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed and did
not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." 21 And they asked
him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the
prophet?" He answered, "No." 22 Then they said to him, "Who are
you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say
about yourself?" 23 He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the
wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah
said. 24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25 They asked him,
"Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah,
nor the prophet?" 26 John answered them, "I baptize with water.
Among you stands one whom you do not know, 27 the one who is
coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." 28
This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was
baptizing.

John the baptizer was the first to identify the coming of a man who was the embodiment of light and life, the Son of God, in fact the Messiah. God coming into the world for the forgiveness of sin. Some believed that John was the Messiah, but as John remarks, "I am not even worthy to untie his sandals". He cautions the religious leaders that he is the "voice in the wilderness" foretold by Isaiah, alerting the populace to get ready for the coming of the Christ.

-Maggie Smith

Monday, December 14/Lunes, 14 de Diciembre

Hosea 6:1-3

"Come, let us return to the Lord,
for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;
he has struck down, and he will bind us up.
2 After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.
3 Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord;
his appearing is as sure as the dawn;
he will come to us like the showers,
like the spring rains that water the earth."

God will welcome us with open arms.

-David Drake

Tuesday, December 15/Martes, 15 de Diciembre

1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

2 We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our
prayers, constantly 3 remembering before our God and Father your
work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord
Jesus Christ. 4 For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that
he has chosen you, 5 because our message of the gospel came to you
not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full
conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be
among you for your sake. 6 And you became imitators of us and of the
Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from
the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in
Macedonia and in Achaia. 8 For the word of the Lord has sounded
forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place
your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to
speak about it. 9 For they report about us what kind of welcome we
had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living
and true God 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised
from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

In times of doubt, remember those moments each time God was present when you needed him to be. Your experience not only helped you, but influenced others in your life. The practice of your faith was authentic and felt by all who came in contact with you.

We are to live the word, breathe the word, and continually demonstrate God's love. When we feel weak, we must lean into God. This is what is means to be a believer. We are never alone.

-Frances Skeete

Wednesday, December 16/Miercoles, 16 de Diciembre

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

[1] Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from
all his enemies around him, [2] the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am
living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." [3] Nathan said to the
king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." [4] But that same
night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: [5] Go and tell my servant David: Thus
says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? [6] I have not lived in a
house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I
have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. [7] Wherever I have moved about
among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders
of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you
not built me a house of cedar?" [8] Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant
David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the
sheep to be prince over my people Israel; [9] and I have been with you wherever you
went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a
great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. [10] And I will appoint a place
for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place,
and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, [11]
from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest
from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make
you a house. [16] Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me;
your throne shall be established forever.

The church is to me a place to go to worship and fellowship and sometimes it provides counseling and comfort depending on how you get on with your fellow parishioners. Somebody is always reminding me that the church is in you, the Holy Spirit is in you, and that is him or her at church. For a while I haven't been going to church outside my television. I get up and listen to Charles Stanley. I like his evangelistic approach. I may have taken secure housing for granted sometimes but now that I am having a little snafu I am a little bit more uncertain about things and when it gets too heavy I may sleep a lot, isolate, I definitely pray, that is where my best help comes from. I try to keep pushing ahead and not dwell on it too much. That is all I can do.

-Reggie C

Thursday, December 17/Jueves, 17 de Diciembre

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

[1] I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I
will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. [2] I declare that your
steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the
heavens. [3] You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I
have sworn to my servant David: [4] 'I will establish your descendants
forever, and build your throne for all generations.'" *Selah*
[19] Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said: "I have set
the crown on one who is mighty, I have exalted one chosen from the
people. [20] I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have
anointed him; [21] my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also
shall strengthen him. [22] The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked
shall not humble him. [23] I will crush his foes before him and strike
down those who hate him. [24] My faithfulness and steadfast love shall
be with him; and in my name his horn shall be exalted. [25] I will set his
hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers. [26] He shall cry to me,
'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!'

This is testimony of "God's love (1-4) and about David God's anointed (19-26)
King David was chosen to be the genealogy line of King Jesus
Gods faithful to His will throughout the generations!!!!!

-Michelle Dickinson

Friday, December 18/Viernes, 18 de Diciembre

Luke 1:46b-55

"My soul magnifies the Lord, [47] and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, [48] for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,[49] for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; [50] indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. [51] He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. [52] He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly;
[53] he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. [54] He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, [55] according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Mary tells the servants, "Do whatever he tells you".
Mary is faithful, she trusts God. She is obedient when God tells her she will give birth to Jesus, the Son of God. She tells God, "I will do as you want."

Mary is a patient. She is a patient mother. As mothers, we can relate to the time she could not find Jesus when he was a child. I remember the agony of not knowing where my son was, thinking he was lost when he was simply enjoying where he was, not thinking that I would be worrying and missing him. But Mary understood that Jesus was following God and doing his Father's business.

Mary saw her son suffer on the cross. What greater pain than a mother seeing her child suffer. Mary reminds us that we must be obedient to God however difficult it may be.
Help me be more like Mary, to proclaim the greatness of God and follow Him.
Let me remember her words, "God has done great things for me, a lowly servant. "

-Jan Starr

Saturday, December 19/Sabado, 19 de Diciembre

Romans 16:25-27

25 Now to God[a] who is able to strengthen you according to
my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according
to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long
ages **26** but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic
writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the
command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience
of faith— **27** to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to
whom be the glory forever! Amen.

This passage serves as a very powerful praise to God the Father from one of Paul's letter to the Romans. Paul reminds the fledgling believers of this new Christian church that the Holy Father holds the power to bind them firmly in their faith. The "mystery" refers to God's plan of salvation through his Son, Jesus Christ, which was hidden from previous generations, but is now openly revealed. This good news is made known to all nations, and Gentiles, that they may share in being obedient to their faith.
Paul's letter ends by ascribing all glory, now and forever, to God the Father through the risen Savior of humanity, Jesus Christ. Amen!

-David Schexnayder

4th Sunday in Advent/4 Domingo en Adviento
Lucas/Luke 1:26-38

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called
Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of
David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings,
favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was much perplexed by his words
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not
be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive
in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and
will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the
throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and
of his kingdom there will be no end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be,
since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born
will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36 And now, your relative Elizabeth in
her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was
said to be barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 Then Mary said,
"Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then
the angel departed from her.

In this passage, Mary is visited by an angel of God bearing the news that she would be the mother of the son of God. At first fearful, then curious, then accepting the Will of God.
If you can be honest with yourself, I mean, really honest, doesn't the power of our Lord sometimes frighten you? It does me.
When I look back over my 80 years of life, there have been times of unusual and even miraculous events. Initially, I looked for an identifiable cause of each event. None could be found, and I too became curious.
The Journey to find faith in our divine creator has been slow and uneven. I dug into science, sub-particle physics and philosophy only to find in every case the trail leading back to the same point… no tangible answer.
Slowly that part of me that exists outside of my physical body began to open; the space filled with the Holy Spirit. The magic, the love and finally faith.
This is the season of celebrating the birth of Jesus, and wherever you are on your journey, notice the miracles, be curious and open yourself to the magic to the love.
May we renew our faith this season of joy.

-Harvey Smith

Monday, December 21/Lunes, 21 de Diciembre

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who
announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” 8 Listen! Your sentinels lift
up their voices; together they shout for joy, for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion. 9 Break forth; shout together for joy,
you ruins of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem. 10 The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall
see the salvation of our God.

The darkness of the season of Advent, the cold, the hunkering down, is the necessary, appropriate setting: Look here, pay attention to this difficult time, this heavy moment, the underground place of the whole year. It isn’t hopeless at all— it is the time of preparation, the time of God working in the depths of creation to give birth to new life, fresh peace, and joy!
In Isaiah’s hymn, “how beautiful are the feet of the messenger,” the people’s heads are hanging down, not looking up to see the messenger’s face, nor anyone’s face, not wanting confirmation of their despair. So the first sign they see of God’s good news, God’s salvation, God’s peace, are the messenger’s *feet*—and even the dirty, path-worn feet of the messenger promise good news, the best news, the return of God in victory, in peace, in blessing.
As we wait day after day through this December, we pray and breathe and walk through rain and cold and hard news with hope and expectation—God is doing something new. Our Savior is coming. Not in the usual fashion of earthly rulers, but God is moving among us birthing new life, new faith, a new kingdom of God’s creation: a baby in a manger will be our Lord.
Creating and redeeming God, when we are bowed down and heavy of heart, lighten our hearts with the beauty of the feet of the messenger, and heal us with your peace, through Christ our Lord. Amen

-Pam Russell

Tuesday, December 22/Martes, 22de Diciembre

Isaiah 62:6-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, 7 and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. 8 The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored, 9 but those who harvest it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. 10 Go through, go through the gates; prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway; clear it of stones; lift up an ensign over the peoples. 11 The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "Look, your savior comes; his reward is with him and his recompense before him." 12 They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord," and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

God is gathering the forsaken on a Spring Day, everybody has started to join and rebuild Jerusalem. God has a light that helps everyone to rejoice. I don't have that light, that I can see, I do like returning to the persons that we are, not bad, but rejoicing. That's what gives the special light to the Father. Salvation is coming, your liberation is on the way. It is up to the people to see His light and to make way for salvation. See the Light!

-Estevan Rodriguez

Wednesday, December 23/Miercoles, 23 de Diciembre

Psalm 97

The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be
glad! 2 Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness
and justice are the foundation of his throne. 3 Fire goes before him and
consumes his adversaries on every side. 4 His lightnings light up the
world; the earth sees and trembles. 5 The mountains melt like wax
before the Lord, before the Lord of all the earth. 6 The heavens
proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples behold his glory. 7 All
servants of images are put to shame, those who make their boast in
worthless idols; all gods bow down before him. 8 Zion hears and is
glad, and the towns of Judah rejoice because of your judgments, O
God. 9 For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth; you are
exalted far above all gods. 10 You who love the Lord, hate evil;
he guards the lives of his faithful; he rescues them from the hand of
the wicked. 11 Light dawns for the righteous and joy for the upright in
heart. 12 Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give thanks to his
holy name!

Psalm 97offers a passionate portrayal of God's sovereign and just rule over all the earth. The Psalm celebrates God's righteousness and the resulting joy for those who trust in His justice, while forecasting doom for the wicked.
God gives his people three commands hate evil, rejoice and praise and four promises-God guards, God delivers, light shines and joy shines. In short God is King and Judge. The standards and priorities that he sets should govern our daily living. We should rejoice in His majesty.

-Dean McBee

Thursday, December 24/Jueves, 24 de Diciembre

Titus 3:4-7

4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water[a] of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. 6 This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

This lines up with reading from (John 3:16-21) which states that God gave us His only begotten son, that who so ever believes in Him will not lose His life but our life will last yes forever only by receiving Jesus as our Lord and Savior, Hallelujah, yes and Amen!

-Danny Ray Lee

Friday, December 25/Viernes, 25de Diciembre

Luke 2:1-20

Every Christmas I have my own miracle. I have a little star I put outside my window to look at. Christmas is the time of year we can be grateful that God gave His only begotten son. Christmas makes children feel grateful and happy. Goodness and love is what Christmas is all about. The love of Jesus and our Father, God. GOD BLESS, have a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Welcome 2027!

-Willie Heard