

Taking Our Hearts to the Lord

Scripture Sharing Group Resource, Advent 2014, Week 4

Reader 1: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke (Lk 1:26-38)

"Listen, you are to conceive and bear a son."

The Angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her "Rejoice so highly favoured. The Lord is with you". She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, "Mary, do not be afraid. You have won God's favour. Listen, you are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the house of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end. Mary said to the angel, "But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?" "The Holy Spirit will come upon you" the angel answered "and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God". "I am the handmaid of the Lord" said Mary "let what you have said be done to me". And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Silence

Leader: Let us read the Gospel passage aloud together.

Everyone: A Reading from the Holy Gospel

Silence

Leader: Let us listen to a short reflection on this Gospel passage.

Reader 2: Extract from the poem *Advent Summons* by Mother Mary Francis, P.C.C.

Come forth from the holy place, Sweet Child,
Come from the quiet dark where virginal heartbeats tick your moments.

Come away from the red music of Mary's veins.
Come out from the Tower of David Sweet Child, from the House of Gold.

Leave your lily-cloister, leave your holy mansion,
Quit your covenant ark. O Child, be born!

Be born, sweet Child, in our unholy hearts.

Come to our trembling, Helpless Child.
Come to our littleness, Little Child,
Be born unto us who have kept the faltering vigil.
Be given, be born, be ours again.

Came forth from your holy haven, come away from your perfect shrine,
Come to our wind-racked souls from the flawless tent, Sweet Child.

Be born, little Child, In our unholy hearts.

Silence

Leader: I invite you to share any thought or consideration prompted by the Gospel passage and /or the reflection.

Sharing

Leader: Let us return to our Advent Prayer.

Group returns to page 44 of Advent booklet.