



A Room with a View

Fourth Week of Advent (Dec. 12 or after)

Mary was the original house for the holy. She was “the inn,” her womb gestating love for the world. With all her heart, she proclaims that the lowly are lifted, the hungry are fed, mercy reigns. Like Mary, we must envision, must see, must act on a better vision for the world that we are called to co-create. What is the view from the room that God has prepared?

Read this out loud, and together if you are with others...

*Love waits for us at Advent
Love waits for us to care.
Love waits for our compassion
freely offered, freely shared.*

*In this time of preparation
for the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of a world
where faith shapes all we do.
Love is born in us anew!*

Light four candles.

*Today I add the Light of Love, along with Joy, Hope and Peace,
to illumine the Door of Welcome.*

*May this light shine in my heart, in my life, and in this community.
May Love awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality.
There IS room in this Inn, a House for the Holy.*

What could I/we do to help create a community more full of love? How could I be more loving in my own life (to myself and to others)?

An Ancient Prophecy

Isaiah 12: 2-6

Mary said,

“With all my heart I glorify the Lord!

In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.
He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant.

Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored
because the mighty one has done great things for me.
Holy is his name.

He shows mercy to everyone,
from one generation to the next,
who honors him as God.

He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations.
He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty-handed.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,
remembering his mercy,

just as he promised to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever."

Another Way to Sing Mary's Song
"Magnificat"
by John van de Laar

We praise you, Lord,
and our spirits rejoice in you—our Savior;

For you take notice of the unnoticeable,
and transform them into the blessed;
You are strong and true to yourself and all that is good
in everything you are and do and say;
and you do great things for us;
Through the ages you have shown compassion
to those who trust you,
And in your strength you have scattered
those who are arrogant and abusive;

You have made the thrones of tyrants topple
and you have made humble people into leaders of many;
You have cared for and provided for those who have nothing,
and you have left the over-satisfied with empty hands;

You have always been a help to your people,
and have shown mercy when we have gone astray;
You made this promise to our ancestors,
and you continue to stay true to it even now.

We praise you, Lord, and our spirits rejoice in you - our Saviour.

Space to write your thoughts about this poem:

Breath Prayer

Make of my heart a stable,
a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place
for hope to live and grow.

In this moment we open the doors of our hearts,
letting go of all we do not need.

Take a deep breath in...
and then breathe out regret...
and breathe in forgiveness...
and out again, inviting peace.

In this moment we open the doors of our hearts to the Spirit,
inviting us to become more than we can ask or imagine.

Take a deep breath in...
and then breathe out fear...
and breathe in courage...
and out again, inviting hope.

In this moment we open the doors of our hearts,
filling it with compassion for all those who are struggling.

We remember and pray for...
... those who are suffering economic hardship, and insecurity in basic needs;
may abundance be shared.

... those who are suffering mentally, finding it difficult to cope;
may paths open and hope return.

... those who are suffering illness or injury;
may healing abound.

.... those who are suffering loneliness and isolation;
may companionship and solace arrive.

... those who are suffering discrimination, fear and violence;
may they know respect, respite, and safety.

May the Advent of Compassion be born in us,
reside within us, move outward from us,
to meet the needs of the world,
making a house for the Holy that is each and every child of God.

A Blessing

May God's Door of Welcome
swing open just a little bit more.
May Jesus' humble first dwelling
remind you of the plenty you already know.
And may the Spirit lead you into
more possibility and hospitality that you can imagine,
making room in The Inn for all.
May it be so.