

Holy Mother, Hear Our Prayer...

“Cosmic Change Is Coming”

Isaiah 64:1-5a, 8-9 Mark 13:28-37

The Thunder Perfect Mind 1:1-5a

November 29, 2020

First Week of Advent

Theme: Holy Mother, Hear My Prayer

The spirit of Advent is one of longing...longing for more, for other...for we know deeply...there must be more.

Surely God is not done with creation yet.

We know...we cannot make it through on our own...

to figure it out, fix what is broken,
address the myriad needs we see.

So there exists this longing...perhaps...more...
a sacred trust.

In Advent, we give ourselves...perhaps hesitantly at first but then more fully...give ourselves to Holy possibility.

We journey into Advent as faithfully as we are able.

Drawn toward Holiness, we trust The Divine comes,
hears our prayer.

And, Holiness...does...come...meets us wherever we are on the journey...
in our pain, our loneliness, our hope,
our joy.

In God opposites and contradictions, doubt and faith,
suffering and compassion, the past and the future,
pain and healing are brought together.

God is the alpha and the omega.

Holy Mother, hear my prayer. In You, I place our trust.

Help me let go of my usual small ways of thinking. Release me from my pain. Safe within your love, hold my hand that I may respond in a new way to the big things that surround me.

Holy Mother, hear my prayer.
Holy Father, hear my prayer.

Teaching moments about Thunder Perfect Mind:

One of the gospels found in the Nag Hammadi discovery in the 1940's, "Thunder" was most likely written in the Coptic language giving a different tenor to its English translation.

Unusual is that this is not a story of the faith community or Jesus, but the voice of Holiness speaking directly to us about God's self.

This voice is of the feminine divine whom also expresses as the masculine divine...embracing both aspects of being in one voice, in one singular presence. Is this not what we moderns call: queer.

But this duality is similarly found in the Jesus we meet in the gospels of John and Matthew, and Paul's' First Letter to Corinthians. In these, Jesus is actively associated with the feminine figure of Divine Wisdom while one with the Creator. In this way, Jesus embodies both the Holy Feminine and Holy Masculine. He is the male incarnation of feminine wisdom.

So, "Thunder" brings and holds opposites together in one reality, in a sense, opposites needing and completing each other.

Life is not either/or, but rather...both/and.

Speaking as "Herself" and as "Himself,"

Holiness also speaks to this duality in each of us.

We do not live in a binary world, rather on a "continuum of being" which is beyond role and gender and work and family stereotypes.

Her voice says: Watch Out...be alert to making faulty assumptions and judgements about God, yourself, others.

"Thunder" breaks down the many ways in which the ancient world stereotyped woman as glorious, shameful, corrupt, powerful, and opaque. "Thunder" associates women with the Divine in unexpected ways more real and relative to life's challenges, promises, and ironies, freeing women, and so, then also freeing men held in their own oppressive roles.

It does, along with several of the other recovered gospels, and with those of the traditional New Testament, invite a new look at patriarchal dominance and the understanding of the resurrection of Christ as a communal rather than individual resurrection.

God is within all things, all aspects of life, individual and communal. There is nowhere "Thunder" isn't...with the poor and the rich, the wise and the barbarian, the compassionate and the cruel. Grasping this is the way through...then, shall "all manner of thing be well."

We are invited to see opposites, opposing forces and assumptions, duality, within ourselves and approach our inner dialogue with a more compassionate understanding of our whole self and what may yet be possible.

And when tempted to see or set divides between peoples, be aware:

none exists! We only move forward...together. This is our prayer and an affirmation of the love of God for each of us, all of us.

This is ADVENT's hope, love, joy, peace.

Prompting:

A cosmic change is coming!

It comes...even as we are tired and weary of more changing.

Through God's action...not by our own initiation,

change comes to us for God wants more for us!

Change comes as we open our hearts,

woke to God's presence and possibility...

which is often marked by
surprise, resistance, then a rush of energy!

We are not so fragile

as to easily succumb to life's challenges

rather, deeply loved, we are enabled to rise to meet them.

Holy Mother, please help us value who we already are

and feel Your support to become who you are inviting us to become.

Help us to

Wake Up to what's going on in us and around us and

Not be reactive, spin out of control or fly off...the handle!

Instead, to go with the rhythm of the potter's wheel!

We are invited to risk taking on a new shape...getting clearer on some things, fuzzier on others, a new perspective on most things!

It begins by admitting to ourselves...

there is something more hopeful, more significant than the long lines of sorrow from our past

at the heart of our holiday woes;

something more significant than a lack of money at the heart of our financial woes;

something more significant than a lack of time at the heart of our “woe is me” rushing;
something more significant than a lack of entertainment at the heart of our boredom
and blues woes.

Too often we just keep searching for that which
will change everything for us from the outside in...
to fix things for us.

If we keep looking outside for what is already inside us that awaits our awareness,
we'll

never get off that wheel but just keep spinning in circles...

all the time complaining: things never change.
No dah!

We often avoid looking within, avoid tending what's behind our woes, the real issues
and what is most significant,

even when it shows up right in front of us for our eyes...
like that fig tree.

Instead, we tend to seek solutions through our American genius for efficiency.

Instead of seeking inner awareness (which can bring relief like Worship, Sanctuary Time
of Belonging and Circle offers),

instead of seeking peace and calming (which point us to new freedom like Centering
offers),

we often seek the better partner, the better job,
the bigger store, the right pill, the perfect family,
the harmonious church.

And often it seems we succeed, at least it seems so for a while.

If this is our expectation...
for what ails us to be fixed from the outside,
we will be perpetually disappointed...

Preparation for true life, real Advent is...
not a matter of fixing what is wrong
or finding a way to get what we want,
or taking stands and digging in.

It's not even about setting lower expectations,
for that means you have defined what is possible.

Advent preparation is about slowly seeing anew,
setting aside old ways and perspectives
like Mary and Joseph did!

Bringing divergent thoughts and feelings together
in our own thunder perfect mind.
Praying God with us, empowering us, changing us.

Advent is a time I can use to justify a change in "me".
O Holy One, You hear my prayer!

The change we desire within ourselves and within our world comes...can only come...when we as individuals

Stay on that potter's wheel to see what can be!
Stay awake to the cosmic change coming in Christ!
Give ourselves to a cosmic upside down,
inside-out perspective bringing what seem
to be polar opposites together!

And if we need to...like Isaiah needed, yell it out:
Oh God, open the heavens and come on down here...
keep me on the wheel...I am about to fly off!
I can't do this by myself!
Clapton's prayer in Holy Mother.

And, you don't have to do it alone.
Grace, not human effort or expertise or efficiency,
makes this new life possible.

Grace begins with deeply feeling God's presence.

But new life begins with you!

God knows you are a work in process.
On the wheel. Don't give up. Pray your real prayers!

More fully aware,
appreciate what you bring to each situation.

Like those in the story long ago who knew not where they would go or what would be or how much time it might take: stay the course.

Stay in process, in relationship...on that wheel,
Clay in the potter's hands! Stay awake!
Loosen up your control...

**embrace the cosmic change that so wants to come
to your life and our world!**

Holy One, You hear my prayer. I lift your name, You're always there.
I feel Your joy running through my soul. All I need is Your hand to hold.

You are here. You are here. You hear my constant call.
You are here. I am here. Holy Mother, You are all.