

Holy Mother, Hear Our Prayer...

"Dream On"

Matthew 1:18-25 Luke 1:26-45

The Thunder Perfect Mind 4, 5

December 20, 2020

Fourth Week of Advent

Theme: Holy Mother, Hear My Prayer

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

Surely God is not done with creation...or us, yet.

Advent is a time when we step once again into the unknown...in pursuit of more life, a just life...

A life of peace, joy, love, and hope...

A time when we remind ourselves that "opting out" is not a way for a grown-up to live,
a maturing Christian to be! (On Being)

We are growing up in the Advent stories of "just" hope, peace, joy, and love!

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

Drawn toward Holiness, Holiness comes...into humanity ...our humanity...

offering a new perspective on life's struggles.

Holiness meets us wherever we are in our Advent journey...

in our pain, our loneliness, our hope,
our joy.

Listen:

In the birth of Christ, opposing forces and contradictions, doubt and faith, suffering and compassion, the past and the future, pain and healing are brought together.

God is our all...the alpha and the omega. So...

Holy Mother, hear our prayer. In You, we place our trust.

Help us let go of my usual ways of thinking. Release us from our pain. Safe within your love, hold each hand that we may respond in a new way to the life that surrounds us.

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. We reclaim this word as a positive, along with the LGBTQIA+ community.

But this same 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, peace, joy, love.

Prompting:

Joseph dreams and Mary sees angels.

~What are you dreaming about these days?

~If an angel came to you in your dreams, what words would you hope to be hear?

Dreams, visions.

For all time and in most cultures and religions, people have believed God communicates through our dreams.

As we sleep, with our conscious defenses down,

God whispers (or shouts!) in our ear to bring us information for our own good.

Insights God wants us to be aware of...for our own good.

We need not be afraid...need not live afraid.

And even in dreams, in visions...Mary's, Joseph's, yours, God honors free will...

**gives us the chance to make meaning out of our lives
as we can...if we only will.**

Dreams - how they can propel us forward, beyond our difficult circumstances, into the beautiful.

So it was with Joseph.

And angels. Mary, a young girl with an established plan for her life, is visited by the unexpected.

She accepts God's dream as her own dream and boldly so. Let it be...so. A dream very much alive even today.

The sentiments of her song still propel us forward.

Maybe you have been feeling overwhelmed. If so, you are not alone. If so, you are invited, held in the arms of an angel, to dream and boldly respond to the angel's proclamation being born in you.

Remember Mary's wisdom...to look beyond today's reality and rejoice as we imagine a world in everyone can live into God's vision altogether.

Scary?

In today's scriptures, Mary and Joseph, separately,

are told "do not be afraid" and given the choice to respond to the purpose offered, or not. So are you.

Certainly, they are invited to put aside the expectations of others...of pleasing others, and instead

begin making decisions that resonate with their own sense of self and purpose which aligns with what is the common good...holy's powerful intention.

Likewise, God trusts/knows, we will put aside expectations and make decisions for our well-being...*we will as and when we can.* Yet...

Every year I wonder: how many other favored women God approached before God found the one who would **move out of her fear and live into possibility.**

I wonder how many men received a dream before God found one who would **move out of his fear and follow his deepest desire to love, despite** what seems to be. How many take time to "sleep on it" before making a choice so their choice deeply is theirs?

And...wow...

Mary and Elizabeth.

Both visited by the angel Gabriel. Cousins.

One quite old and one quite young.

Both pregnant with possibility.

And the young one doesn't gloat and the older one doesn't covet or judge...

or maybe that's the other way around.

They give each other the space and honor to be who they are (on the thunder perfect mind's continuum) and they truly celebrate each other's lives.

Perhaps Mary would never have found those magnificent words of thanksgiving if Elizabeth had not recognized her great courage and faith.

*Whose courage and faith have you recognized in ways
that empower them to be all they can be?*

*Who has recognized and honored your courage
bringing empowerment to you?*

When they met, the holy leaped for joy.

**It was a mutual honoring and support...
intended for good...not just their own good...**

for so many lives would be touched by the two babies to which they are about to give birth.

The Holy leaped for joy at their maturing trust!

I think of Mary and Elizabeth, and I think of the Sanskrit word: Namaste
...when the holy in me meets the holy in you, we are one.

I honor the place in you in which God dwells.

I honor the place in you which is of love, of truth, of light and of peace.

When you are in that place in you, and I am in that place in me, we are ONE.

>The holy is within you.

Like Mary and Elizabeth, it leaps for joy when it meets the holy within another.

You have felt your heart beat fast,
your spirit leap as someone confirmed who you think yourself to be, as you have shared what is
really going on within you?

That rushed heartbeat and enlivened spirit just may be

the clues something inside you is wanting to be born, released out into the world...

something you never could have conceived of on your own...something holy.

The holy within, might it not be the very dream you're hoping will come true...
the vision you have...

for a life of integrity and justice and peace.

The holy within empowers you to find the purpose for the day.

Oh that it would be so easily known...

That we would have our own angels

and know **God's invitation for our well-being!**

Oh that the angel would appear,

**the dream play out,
the doorbell or the telephone ring**

**and as you answer it
everything about who you are and your role
in God's grand possibility be revealed!**

Oh that we had clarity about our particular usefulness to God...how God is in our every day...for our good!

It may not be clear, but it is right before your very eyes!

What are you longing for, dreaming about?
What are you grateful for?
And where have you known mercy and taken grace into yourself?

In our gratitude we may find our most powerful empowerment.

We're a nation hungry for more joy: Because we're starving from a lack of gratitude.

BRENÉ BROWN

When we touch our deepest gratitude and our deepest longing, where truth and love meet...

we find a deep wisdom that is not afraid.

Then...we know the difference between the things we can change and the things we cannot.

We go with what we can change.

**As we find our courage,
we also find a serenity.**

That's the peace associated with this season of giving birth to the impossible!

From a place of integrity deep within us...
we wisely give birth to God's deepest desires,
our purpose...

This season, we dream dreams and see visions.

This season we give birth to new possibility for our lives.

And even though we may not be able to see the way how things will unfold or perceive our own ability to bring new life to light, we are enabled to

live with a sense of purpose far bigger than our own existences or wants or limitations or abilities.

The scriptures invite you to wonder about who you are and your role in God's grand scheme of things.

Things are yet to be revealed and you will either make space for a new possibility...or you won't.

Ponder this:

Christmas is for those who refuse to give up and let their hearts grow old.

Christmas is for those to whom life comes newly and with purpose each and every day.

Christmas is for those who can let yesterday go so today life can be full of new possibility.

Christmas is for those who are agitated by newness (not aggravated by newness) whatever their age!

Life is for living.

For those in whom Christmas is a feast of the soul that never ends, there is

a celebration of the constancy of change,

a call to begin once more the journey of human joy

and holy meaning in everyday life.

You see, this is no cuddly baby born in a manger...the words of the Magnificat reveal a very strong and present God, even as a baby.

No, this is not a cuddly baby but a baby who looks you in the eyes and says,

"What are you going to do about your life?"

**God consented thru love
to cease to be everything
so that we might be something.**

Simone Weil, Christian mystic & social activist (1909-1943)

So....dream audaciously enormous dreams.

See the angels all around you.

Listen...please...

Turn away from the world's expectations,
your own faulty expectations.

Appreciate what you bring to each situation.
You are exactly what is needed now.

You have a thunder perfect mind.

Cry out to Holy Mother, Holy Father!

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.