



Daily Meditations

December 21 - 26, 2020

The Biblical readings are taken from the Daily Office in the Book of Common Prayer for Year 1 and written by the St. Stephen's Meditation Writing Team: Dave Boyd, Jon Campbell, Becky Denton, Pat Gillory, Jay Nickel, Bob Reed, and Carroll Wilson.

Click on the scripture reading for each day to go directly to link.

COLLECT, Advent 4

*Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.***

Christmas Sonnet 1

Monday, December 21, 2020

John 5:30-47

"I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge; and my judgment is just, because I seek to do not my own will but the will of him who sent me." - NRSV, John 5:30

He works for the Father as God's only son,
Acting in love to salvation extend.
Judging in justice "not my will but thy will be done"
Defending himself to skeptical men.

On trial he calls witnesses for the defense:
The Baptist; his works; writings of Moses;
Showing from the Father Jesus was sent.
But, they'd rather one who self-righteously poses.

Jesus asks me, jury, to make choices.
I want to have the love of God in me,
To find the truth in the Prophets' voices.
I want to reflect God's truth and glory.

Make visible and present God's Kingdom,
Let examples of Christ have dominion.

Christmas Sonnet 2

Tuesday, December 22, 2020

Luke 1:5-25

Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." - NRSV, Luke 1:18

How will I know that this is so?
Promise of blessings inconceivable,
Like Zechariah, I want to know
How to believe the unbelievable.

Old age, weariness, and my cynicism,
Reason, intellect, and exegesis,
Experience argues for suspicion,
Interpreting the Gospels of Jesus.

And so I offer up my doubts in verse,
Alone and longing for connection,
Hoping reason is both blessing and curse
Hoping this, too, is part of God's reflect'n

So may my life, example and teaching
Be more effective than merely preaching.

Christmas Sonnet 3

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

Luke 1:26-38

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. - NRSV, Luke 1:38

Mary asks, "How can this be?" trusting,
Gracefully surrendering to God's Plan.
Zechariah: "How can I know?," doubting
Wanting assurance, he's a fertile man.

Angel to Mary, "Greetings favored one;"
To Zechariah, "Do not be afraid."
She getting gifts of an un-asked for son.
His prayers get answered, though, long delayed.

How might an angel decide to greet me?
What grace or challenge might he bring?
And would angels my cynicism see,
Or would I have the grace to praises sing?

Let me choose acceptance, awe, hope, wonder,
Don't disappoint angels with my blunders.

Christmas Sonnet 4

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Luke 1:67-80

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. - NRSV, Luke 1:76-77

At the birth of my first-born, my daughter,
I thought the blessing was from God to me:
Assured I might succeed as a father;
Surprised she rested so comfortably.

Swaddled, asleep in the crook of my arm
Her eyes closed, skin pink, she softly breathing
In wonder I held her, keeping her warm,
Basking in miracle then revealing.

But for what purpose to become parents?
What blessings, promises, challenges offered?
To self-centeredly seek comfort, blessings?
Staff family businesses to prosper?

We gift a child, who has us as parents,
To a world that has needs so apparent.

Christmas Sonnet 5

Friday, December 25, 2020

John 3:31-36

The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks about earthly things. The one who comes from heaven is above all. - NRSV, John 3:31

The Baptist responds to jealous followers
About Jesus for whom he preps the way,
"He One from heaven, above all others.
In his hands, at his feet, God all things lay."

John declares to the crowd that: God is True;
Jesus speaks for God; his words our treasure.
John declares—believe—is what we must do,
Attend to God's word, Spirit sans measure.

This Christmas day, what truth do I honor?
"I humbly love justice, kindness, mercy?"
"I follow Jesus, loving my neighbor?"
Sadly, these words I can't claim truthfully.

Forgiveness and mercy, needs so dire
Connection with Spirit, Truth I desire.

Feast of Saint Stephen Sonnet

Saturday, December 26, 2020

Acts 7:59-8:8

While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When

he said this, he died. - NRSV, Acts 7:59-60

Shaming–forgiving their deadly revenge–
By Stephen, the martyr, he accusing
Those whose privilege and status they defend,
Stephen calling them out as prophet denying.

Saul approving such brutal volition
Confusing justice with punishment, law,
Continued his persecution mission.
Corruption, not love, is all that he saw.

How do we respond to legal slaying?
Vi'lence in the name of law and order?
Vi'lence tolerated through denying,
Fear, complacency, threats to our borders?

Let us not worship vi'lence redemptive
But to justice and peace be attentive.

Connect with us

