



Advent Vespers Devotional 2020

Saturday, December 12
Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

God’s people have been displaced, endured suffering and enslavement, and have experienced death. They have been exiled. They are waiting for a return to Jerusalem, waiting for the messenger. The messenger comes proclaiming that God, who remains true to God’s promises, reigns. God will redeem God’s people. This is good news! The message includes words of peace, salvation, comfort, God’s return to Zion, and redemption. This message of good news is proclaimed in a context of bad news, and yet it’s still good news. In this Advent season, we find ourselves at a point in the narrative where we are waiting, waiting for the Good News to become incarnate and dwell among us. For us, in the here and now, it’s also not difficult to find bad news. What’s the good news in this time and place? What good news does our neighbor need us to proclaim? How might we join in the joyful song?

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