



Advent Vespers Devotional 2020

Wednesday, December 16
Psalm 103:1-8

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The great baseball philosopher Yogi Berra supposedly once said: "You can see a lot by looking." In other words, we are often caught up in seeing but without truly looking. By "looking" I mean taking the time to pause from our self-preoccupations and notice what is really going on. Maybe it's the child laughing across the street. Maybe it's the snow clinging to the cedar tree out your window. Maybe it's the line in front of the food pantry that you pass by on our way to work. Maybe it's the elderly neighbor isolated by the pandemic. There is a lot to see out there in God's world. How often do we really look?

We pray: God of the light and truth, open our eyes to look...to see your work in the beauty of your creation and in the needs of our neighbors, near and far. Amen.

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