



# Advent Vespers Devotional 2020

Monday, December 21  
Luke 2:8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

“I long to hear some good news.” Words spoken and heard often in the midst of multiple pandemics. In such a time fear is understandable. Fear can motivate us to take responsible actions. Yet fear can also close us off to God’s promises and presence, to neighbors struggling, to the creation suffering. “Do not be afraid” the angel announced. Take a deep breath! God is about to do a new thing for the sake of God’s liberating, reconciling love for all. God becoming one of us in Jesus the Christ. God taking on our flesh, our anxieties, our breath, our death for the sake of life. Breathe that Good News into our lives, O God!

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