



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

ALL MY HEART AGAIN REJOICES - STANZA 2

Hark! A voice from lowly manger
softly thus calls to us:
“You are free from danger;
come and see; from
all that grieves you –
you are freed; all you need
I will surely give you.”

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

Catherine Winkworth’s beautiful translation of Paul Gerhardt’s German hymn underlines the great mystery of this season – the Incarnation – the action of God taking on our flesh, becoming one of us – Emma-nu-el: God with us. Theologians often don’t stop here but run straight into soteriological banter – the doctrine of salvation, atonement, even theology of the Cross. But the hymn text grabs us at root level – a voice from a manger, from a cradle. What could be more innocent – and powerful? “You are free from danger...you are freed.” Hope and solace in these turbulent times – and, really, what times aren’t challenging? “All you need.” The one who cares for us is not some unknowable entity but one who knows us – who is us. The stable, the manger, the star – tangible reminders of a story that broke into the world on a quiet Middle Eastern night. And what a story it is.

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