

Trinity News

December 20, 2009

Advent IV – The Consoling and Effective Grace of Peace Within

The Wise Men have set out on their Journey towards the East. It will be a hard journey with a beacon at the end to guide them to a house in Bethlehem. We too look for beacons on the Way.

The Prophet Micah gives us deep insights into the one who is to come. The word “prophetic”, like the word “passionate”, is used for just about anything today and very often misused. I remember being asked to speak on “Jesus as Prophet” in the polished halls of Trinity College in the University of Melbourne one night. The then Archbishop of Melbourne asked me what I meant by “prophetic”. I replied: “The prophets often spoke so deeply into a situation that they saw its connections with both the present and the future. Some of the elements of what they said were so deep that they could well apply to similar situations with different settings in the generations that followed, though care would be needed in making such applications”. Archbishop Rayner said, “That will do”. The now retired Bishop Keith Rayner is one of the calmest people that I know, but he could rise to the occasion at times when a firm word was needed.

Micah speaks of someone who is to come from Bethlehem, “The House of Bread”, who has his origins in the deepest past, “from ancient days”. He will dig deeply into the present human realities and testify to a luminous future. He will come for God and for humanity. He will cause people to return to the legend written for them in heaven. They will begin to know God and themselves more like God knows them. This is the goal of our pilgrimage and at the core of the Christian way of being called The Imitation of Christ. We know that long after Micah spoke and wrote these prophetic words Christ was born at Bethlehem and that he feeds us with The Bread of Life on our pilgrimage.

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Micah says that those who are fed by the One who is to come will be secure and share in the majesty and peace of God.

December 16th marked the 42nd anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood. I think Micah's words here underline the longings of about a quarter of a million people from that journey who are still in my heart:

Security: Often sought and rarely found in any consistent pattern. We can plan for financial security. Well... But we cannot plan for inner security. We cannot make someone love us. Neither can we stop loving someone, like turning off a tap. We also cannot make ourselves love someone completely. We may be in love with someone, but not in-in love with them. It is usually enough and many are thankful, but it has a limit, and frustrations. I have talked to many people who feel this way. I remember Archbishop Rayner's words when he retired. "I am content wherever I find myself". Now that would be security!

Majesty: The Prophet talks about God's "majesty" as the measure of all power. Aspirations to power, if they are placed alongside the Name and Majesty of God, receive an entirely new perspective.

Peace: "And he shall be the one of peace" Micah 5:4 (5). A friend who appeared outwardly calm in some tough situations told me that he was not at peace until he retired. Appearances are often deceptive. Assured peace comes with being oneself and the best way to be oneself is to be integrated with the ultimate model of peace. God's silence is full of loving messages for us, just as a loved one's silence is as reassuring as many words. Well, most of the time! - *Bishop Arthur Jones*

Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 20, 2009

We are thankful to those who are ministering in the church this morning

Celebrant:/Preacher: The Rt. Rev. Arthur L. Jones

Eucharistic Ministers: [7:30] Bernice Elaine Ong

[9:30] Philip Thoburn/Cery Abad

Readers: [7:30] Bernice Elaine Ong

[9:30] Jocelyn Pick

Ministers of Music: Ferdinand Bautista /Domino Marcos

Ushers: [7:30] Don Alano / Benjamin Yao

[9:30] Skeeter Joan Dagas / Corinne Gohoc

Acolytes: Patrick Dagas/Alexis Dalmas/Dexter Fanged

Eric Gatulla/David Joaquin/Loren Ursua

The altar flowers are donated to the glory of God by:

Billy & Vicky Lee

Offering of the Bread and Wine: Jefferson & Jennifer Ngie

Collect:

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.*

Scripture Readings:

First Reading: Micah 5:2-4 page 1053

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10 page 1353

Gospel: Luke 1:39-49 (NRSV)

Sunday Hymns:

[7:30] Gradual No. 657, Love divine
Recessional No. 72, Hark! the glad sound

[9:30] Processional No. 66, Come, thou long-expected Jesus
Gradual No. 657, Love divine
Offertory No. 76, On Jordan's bank
Communion No. 61, Sleepers, wake!
Recessional No. 72, Hark! the glad sound!

Your prayers are asked for:

Those who are celebrating their birthdays this week especially

Leticia Murry (Dec. 21)
Rita Cabanban (Dec. 22)
Anne Hodge (Dec. 23)
Rose Ann Hutchison (Dec. 23)
Ryan Lindborg (Dec. 23)
Jack James Mandry (Dec. 23)
Jocelyn Zaldivar (Dec. 23)
Ranjan Ezra (Dec. 25)
Binnie Gooding (Dec. 25)
Erik Jacobson (Dec. 26)

Those celebrating their wedding anniversaries especially

Richard & Angelita Biteng;
Philip & Elisa Thoburn;
Christopher & Susana Wensley;
Fred & Christine Eustaquio;
Boni & Esther Tan;
Camilo & Leni Cabili;
Alexander & Ruth Yu.

Those who are in need of healing especially Diana Croyston, Allan Waterfield, Beryl Tanner, Bonnie SyCip, Benjie Conzales, Carlyn-Fern Manning, Peter Rom Vildzius, Audrey Lacson, Johnny Manning Jr, Isabel Yu, Loy Solasco, Jovel Llagas, Richard Kendall, Ted Whale, Aris Paraman, Merly Quiapos, Susan Dalmas, Helen Irvine, Carrie Angus, Valerie Jones, Emerinciana Gatela, Ron Jacob, Suzanne Jacobson, Joe Lubus.

Those who travel especially Florence, Nico & Catherine Martin.

Felipa Tison, Dee Chiong, Louisa Walford on the occasion of their death anniversaries.

	Last Sunday	Year-to-Date	2009 Budget
Pledge	P24,400.00	P3,518,237.50	P3,900,000.00
Loose Plate	P24,280.45	P1,043,676.40	P940,000.00
Pasasalamat/UTO		P23,715.00	