

Heartbeats

The Company of St. Angela in the 21st Century

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"His Light In Us"

In this, the fourth Sunday of Advent we see Mary arriving at Judah to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Mary set out on this journey to share the "good news" with Elizabeth. When she greets her cousin, we immediately read from Luke that Elizabeth "filled with the Holy Spirit, cries out in a loud voice:



Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
And how does this happen to me,
that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears,
the infant in my womb leaped for joy.
Blessed are you who believed
that what was spoken to you by the Lord
would be fulfilled." Luke 1: 42-25

In amazement, I wonder how Elizabeth knew that Mary would become the mother of our Lord. The gospel recounts how the sound of Mary's greeting reached the ears of Elizabeth and the infant leaped in her womb. How awesome to think that Mary's greeting triggered in Elizabeth a physical reaction in her womb followed by a belief, a faith, that has blossomed throughout the world from that one intimate moment. Do you feel that sometimes this happens amidst your encounters with your students or others? How the beauty inside each one reminds us of the presence of God's perfect love.

Could the voice of the angel Gabriel, be the same voice that spoke to St. Angela in her life? Angela heard the voice of an angel and shared that message of love among her friends and family. Look what happened! I like to think that we too have been called by this same voice. That distant call by God that is igniting God's light in us continues through all humanity. Though we sometimes have many distractions, it is the power of the Holy Spirit that enables us to hear this good news. Will we, like Mary, Elizabeth, and Angela, respond to the voice of the angel and allow the light of God to shine in our world this Christmas?

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My prayer this Christmas season is that together – “*Insieme*” – the world can hear the voice of the angel in their hearts and minds and see God’s light in each and every one of us. As an early Christmas gift, I leave with you a link to a song that I feel echoes the distant call first heard by Mary, Angela, and you and me: <https://bit.ly/2Q6BPBX>.

God’s distant call
flares in the night,
so long expected, so longed for;
and all my life,
Christ called my name,
and now at last, I’ll answer Him.

Renewed, his hope,
his light in us,
incarnate, fragile,
our Lord appears,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Eternal, so perfect,
his cry of changeless love.

Alive, awake,
His call is here:
it is the crying of the child;
I know Christ’s call,
its hidden flame,
it makes my spirit flare with hope!

Renewed, his hope,
his light in us...

This root, this stem, this flowering Love,
this mustard seed, it grows to the greatest tree, the birds of souls have
nested there.

The light of the night
Now blazes at Dawn!

You’ve lead me here,
O little child,
your being singing with God’s life.
The kingdom sings,
it choirs with earth,
all creation lives Christ’s peace.

Renewed, his hope,
his light in us...

-Euan Tait

Joseph Louden
Wilmington, DE

