



THEREFORE THE LORD
HIMSELF WILL GIVE YOU
A SIGN: LOOK, THE YOUNG
WOMAN IS WITH CHILD
AND SHALL BEAR A SON,
AND SHALL NAME HIM
IMMANUEL.

Reflections for the
SEASON of ADVENT
EDGEWOOD COLLEGE | 2020

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Advent, derived from Latin, means arrival or coming. In the Catholic tradition, preparation for the Advent of God begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas day. Scripture texts and prayers during the season of Advent express expectation, comfort and hope to Christians longing for the promised Light of the World, the One whose birth we celebrate at Christmas.

This Advent Reflection booklet provides a reflection for each day of Advent, based on Advent Scripture readings in the Common Christian Lectionary. Because of space constraints, only a brief portion of the selected Scripture reading is included. We hope you draw encouragement and inspiration from these reflections contributed by members throughout the Edgewood College community.

Dominican Life and Mission
Edgewood College

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Isaiah 63: 16b-17, 19b; 64: 2-7. *Why do you let us wander, O God, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not?*

WOULDN'T IT BE AWESOME TO STAY IN THE BLISS OF KNOWING/ FEELING GOD? What if we could sustain that all the time? It sure would come in handy during this time of unrest and fear. It's hard to feel like we are in this alone. Why doesn't God MAKE us remember and act like God's family? It would be so much easier. Why can't we humans seem to get it together and always do what is right and loving, like God showed us how? Well, I think it's precisely because we are human - flaws and all. We naturally want control of everything around us, as if we know what is best all of the time. It takes a minute, sometimes to sit back and breathe and re-member. It is only then that we understand that as much as we would like it otherwise, God is in control. God's got us. When we really know/feel that, the bliss comes back in one form or another. To lie back into God and trust and breathe. This is what God asks of us. May we never stop practicing. The love of God is with us, even when we can't feel it. It is there.

Kasey DeWitt, Student Success Advisor
Edgewood College, B.S., 1990, M.A., 2009

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Romans 10: 9-18. *There is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same God is God of all, enriching all who call upon God. For everyone who calls on the name of God will be saved...As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news!*

In these days of COVID-19, and societal and political division - what is this Good news you and I are called to bring? We know that Advent is a time of waiting. This Advent we, too, live with enormous uncertainty with its toll of insecurity, anxiety and fear. Can we reach out to each other, with loving concern and support regardless of our differences, even in the midst of necessary social distancing? This scripture reminds us that "There is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same God is God of all, enriching all who call upon God." In spite of the deeply divisive climate we have endured, we cry out to a God who is so much greater, wider, more deeply compassionate, more spacious than our divisions and fears. May we be sisters and brother to all opening our eyes to the unity of our planet and all living beings.

Isabel Rafferty, O.P.

Lecturer, Digital Art and Design, Art Department, retired, Edgewood College, B.S., 1984

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

Isaiah 11: 1-10. *On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom.*

Sometimes I don't feel it, that bud. When my college friend Sarah died of a brain aneurysm (warmhearted, strong-willed Sarah!), the shock of it cracked my faith, cut it to a cold, hard stump. I strive for the blossom, but for me, faith is the green bud, vulnerable yet full of possibility: a meaningful conversation in the Writing Center, a spontaneous hug from my teens, an apology to a friend, speaking up as Sarah did. It's our stumbling along, moving in the right direction that—as the full passage suggests—might lead to great things, like transcending fear so that we no longer judge people by appearance. Can you imagine that blossom, that tree? Faith, for me, sometimes hides in the stump. But underneath the frozen ground, within the tangled roots, there is indeed a bud, waiting to shoot up. And that bud will change things.

Deb Kruse-Field, Writing Center Director

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

Isaiah 25: 6-10a. *On this mountain the God of hosts will provide for all peoples.*

As I read this Isaiah text, I continue to find pause in the word all. I pray that our world embraces and lives the word, but fear sometimes overtakes my hope. I fear that not all people live in the light of rich food and choice wine. I fear that not all people have equity in access, in housing, in education. I wonder if the veil that envelopes some today is a veil of mistrust of fellow peoples. I pray that the hand of God will continue to rejoice over all peoples and all nations. I pray for days when it is easier to rejoice because all have heard that cry from the mountain.

Tom Holub, Professor, Division of Education

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

Matthew 7: 21, 24-27. *Jesus said to his disciples: “Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise person who built a house on rock.”*

In March, when campus closed, a student shared the difficulties of sheltering in. They missed friends, faculty, classes, the campus community as a whole. We were grappling with the impact of the health crisis on daily life, human life. In March, we were also in the season of Lent, a period of fasting and the sacrifice. We contemplated what we could learn during this period of sheltering in: on grief, loss, and fear, what are you doing to fortify yourself spiritually? What can you do? What can we do? In my Christ abiding, I find solace, strength, and directives in the teachings of Jesus the Christ as: “Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise person who built a house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.”

Virginia Vivian ‘Viki’ Lee, Director of the Bonner Program

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

Isaiah 29: 17-24. *Thus says our God: But a very little while, and Lebanon shall be changed into an orchard. On that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book; and out of gloom and darkness, the eyes of the blind shall see.*

In this scripture, I was attracted to the phrase “and out of gloom and darkness, the eyes of the blind shall see.” This caught my attention because we are living in an uncertain time. It’s confusing and difficult to navigate the current pandemic we are facing. It’s a gloomy experience, as people are dying from this disease. However, God will walk with us and guide us and will draw all the good that comes out of this evil virus. We will come together, be stronger and will push forward to see a better tomorrow.

*Suann Saltzberry, Associate Director of Athletics
Edgewood College, B.S., 2005, M.B.A., 2009*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

Isaiah 30: 19-21, 23-26. *God will be gracious to you when you cry out; as soon as God hears God will answer you.*

The beginning of this passage is a mystery to me, how a God who loves us so much can allow pain and suffering. This prayer has been helpful to me: “As we look at the world around us, we struggle as we see people afflicted with terrible pain and suffering. Our hearts ache for those whose lives have been touched by hatred, violence and discrimination. We don’t understand when innocent bystanders and children are affected. We want to remain hopeful, but sometimes it is difficult. Remind us that you came to us in the fully human Jesus, lived among us, and died and rose for us, that you might take our sin and suffering upon yourself. Help us turn our uncertainties over to you, knowing that full compassion is more important than full understanding. As we see those who are suffering, empower us to help in the ways available to us.” (United Church of Christ, 2006).

Margaret Noreuil, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs/Academic Dean

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11. *Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God... Go up onto a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God!*

When I read this passage, I am immediately at peace, feeling the comfort of God carrying me in those holy arms. And after the trying times we have had this past year, God's comfort is the promise we need. I think of all that has happened: sickness, death, pandemic, tears, conflict, hate, lost jobs, lost peace, lost dreams of school, graduation...we could continue on with this list. I have felt the emotions with these phrases many times in 2020. And yet, as this passage reminds us, God is here to comfort us. To give us a place of safety and warmth, like the embrace of a good friend or the warmth of a comfy blanket while you snuggle on the couch at home. As the storms grow strong, remember the shouting from the mountain: Have comfort!! May your Advent season be filled with peace, warmth, and.....comfort.

*Heather Harbach, Vice President for Student Development
Edgewood College, Ed.D., 2017*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

Isaiah 35: 1-10. *The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song.*

Frogs and toads live in the desert southwest of the United States, and in the deserts of Australia. A suite of adaptations facilitates their survival in these challenging environments. They have round bodies that reduce their exposure to warm and dry air. They burrow underground and patiently wait, for months or sometimes years, for the rains that hydrate their bodies and make it possible for their offspring to develop and thrive. In their burrows, some species form cocoons using their own skin, or store water in their bodies.

They emerge when they sense rain falling, signaling that it is safe to dig their way out. And then they sing... loud and all at once. Does this sound familiar to you? For what have you been patiently waiting? For how long - for months, or years, or your whole life, or for generations? What will signal your time to sing?

Nikki Kime, Professor, Biological Sciences

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Luke 1: 26-38. *The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, the angel said, "Hail, full of grace! God is with you." But Mary was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."*

In this Scripture, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to deliver the message to Mary that she would bear the Son of God. At first, Mary appeared confused. She quickly questioned God's plan as she did not understand how it could occur any other way than what she knew to be true. This particular theme resonates today as many of us are quick to question our life plans when we believe things should occur a certain way. Instead, we could just go with the flow and trust where life takes us next as Mary ultimately did. By practicing this mentality, we could save ourselves time and stress by leaning in to the unexpected parts of our life journeys, letting them be, and trusting the process. After all, these parts of our lives make up who we are as individuals and who we will continue to become.

*Mandy Gallo, Facilities Operations Specialist
Edgewood College, B.A., 2017*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Isaiah 40: 25-31. *Though the young faint and grow weary, and youth stagger and fall, they that hope in God will renew their strength, they will soar as with eagles' wings; they will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint.*

We hope against hope. We continue to hope even when there are no visible signs. We recognize the darkness and apparent hopelessness of the present situation and put all our trust in God. Then, gradually, as our eyes adjust to the darkness of despair, we begin to see the emerging shapes or outlines of God's great and mysterious work – the finger of God, as Jesus called it. These are the paradoxical signs of the time that only become visible once we believe that God is at work in our world, once we learn to look at life with an attitude of hopefulness. What matters in the long run, though, is not only that we are hopeful but that we act hopefully. The most valuable contribution that a Christian can make in our age of despair is to continue, because of our faith, to act hopefully and in that way to be an encouragement to those who have lost all hope.

Albert Nolan, O.P.

Hope in An Age of Despair, Orbis Books, 2009, p.10, 12.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

Isaiah 41: 13-20. *It is I who say to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.'*

This passage offers a theme of hope and renewal amid destitution and despair, one well suited to our current moment. As a school, as a community, and as a society, we face challenges on many fronts. The novel coronavirus threatens not only our health and well-being, but also the social bonds that give us strength and encouragement in difficult times. In the passage, God asks the people of Israel to look to God for strength and sustenance in a time of turmoil. Similarly, we must look to one another—friends, family, and neighbors—for strength, support, and healing in this moment of crisis. That the Israelites find relief and renewal in God's protection should inspire us to believe in a bright future and a stronger community, one forged in the bonds created during this moment of struggle.

MaryRuth Kotelnicki, Senior Lecturer, Biological Sciences

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

Isaiah 48: 17-19. *I, your God, teach you what is for your good, and lead you on the way you should go. If you would hearken to my commandments, your prosperity would be like a river, and your vindication like the waves of the sea.*

As I reflect on this passage from Isaiah, I am drawn to the word vindication. Not so much as a sentiment that I personally identify with but as one that I feel our world is all too absorbed in. My hope is that we can use this season of Advent to work toward forgiveness and love, and not be as concerned with being right or vindicated in all things. True love and healing come from empathy and forgiveness. My Advent wish for everyone is to find this in their own lives and relationships during this Advent season.

Nathan Dowd, Library Director

Edgewood College, Ed.D., 2013

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

Zechariah 2: 14-17. *Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion! For God says, See, I am coming to dwell among you. Many nations shall join themselves to God on that day, and they shall be God's people, and God will dwell among you, and you shall know that the God of hosts has sent me to you.*

The phrase, "I am coming to dwell among you." is extremely relevant to the current state of our community. While this year has revealed many unexpected circumstances, there is peace in knowing that God is with and for us.

Lariel Turner, Program Coordinator

Office of Student Inclusion and Involvement

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

Isaiah 61: 1-2a, 10-11. *The spirit of God is upon me, because God has anointed me, and sent me to bring good news to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor and a day of vindication by our God.*

What is Good? Countless atrocities in history were committed in the name of “Good.” The first time this word is mentioned in the Bible, it is in Genesis; Spirit becomes Matter: “And God saw that it was Good.” If one reflects on the Genesis meaning of Good, which Isaiah reinforces, it is a selfless act that sees Being as the ultimate meaning in the Universe. But confusion remains: Genesis and Isaiah’s “Spirit of God” are too abstract. What does it feel like to be anointed by this Spirit? 1 John 4:16 leaves no further doubt: “God is Love, and all who live in Love, live in God, and God lives in them.” If we connect the dots, logic leads us to the following: Good is possible only through Love. Selfless, giving Love: our only barrier against injustice. Want to do Good? Look deep into your heart. What truly guides you?

Sergei Pavlov, Associate Professor of Music, Director of Choirs

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

Numbers 24: 2-7, 15-17a. *I see him, though not now; I behold him, though not near. A star shall advance from Jacob, and a staff shall rise from Israel.*

As I read this passage, the final phrase catches my attention, “I see him, though not now; I behold him, though not near. A star shall advance from Jacob, and a staff shall rise from Israel.” These lines remind me of the waiting and preparation for Christ’s nativity we Christians participate in during the Advent season. We can see Christ in the world around us and we believe in His presence in heaven, but He may seem far away. During Advent we celebrate His divine presence on earth with us, near to us in the celebration of His nativity. Just as the star guided the Magi to the newborn leader of the people of Israel, the light that is Christ will lead us to the love and happiness we will find in God.

Amber (Schwartz) Thompson, Edgewood College, B.S., 2018

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

Psalms 34: 2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23. *Look to God that you may be radiant with joy, and your faces may not blush with shame. When the poor called out, God heard, and from all distress God saved them.*

The message in this psalm is applicable today as we navigate the uncertain waters of living with the ramifications of a worldwide pandemic. These can be very isolating times for many, leading to internal worry of what is transpiring as a result of the ever present fear of COVID-19; a sense of panic should someone close to them become infected by the virus, or a complete sense of being overwhelmed by aspects of life that are influenced by the many changes taking place in our lives. These anxiety-filled situations can be massaged and dissolved by concentrated times of virtually coming together with family and the individuals that surround us, to worship and praise God. God will be by our side to hear our concerns and help us through these times of tribulations. Allow yourself to be a bit of encouragement while fostering contentment and hope in others.

Darla Peterson, Executive Assistant, Business Office

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

Isaiah 45: 6c-8, 18, 21c-25. *Let justice descend, O heavens, like dew from above, like gentle rain let the skies drop it down. Let the earth open and salvation bud forth; let justice also spring up!*

The words just and justice appear in this scripture passage five times! As we seek justice in today’s world, scripture tells us that justice comes from God. Pope Paul VI famously said “If you want peace, work for justice.” Where there is no justice, there is no peace. The result of justice is peace, and Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Jesus’ ministry focused on justice for people who were marginalized in society: the poor, the sick, the outcast. Through God’s love, as God showed us by giving us Jesus, we can achieve justice and peace. Each of us is a unique creation made by God, inherently loved by God, and inherently equal. As we celebrate Advent and God’s holy gift of Jesus, let’s look at each other through God’s eyes, and guide others to do the same as we work as a community to achieve justice and equality today.

E.J. Keeley, Director of Assessment and Research

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

Psalm 72: 1-4ab, 7-8, 17. *O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son; he shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment. The mountains shall yield peace for the people, and the hills justice.*

The full rainbow of emotions arises as I read this scripture. The repetition of the words “justice” and “peace” brings forth grief and anger at the suffering of so many in our country and in our world. If we are indeed the sons and daughters of God’s longing to be known from within, then it is our work to plant seeds of peace and justice. Let us take time to ponder the mountains-- our teachers. They are models of justice and peace. They do not measure the days in money or in time. They do not ask what will be taken from them if they give their shade to the valley, their rivers to the birds and animals who love them, or their snowy peaks to human children at play. They bless without seeking anything at all, and, in blessing, are blessed. Let us live closer to their ways.

Rebecca Zambrano, Director of Online Learning

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

Psalm 72: 1-2, 12-13, 18-19. *O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son; he shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment. Justice shall flower in his time, and profound peace forever.*

The psalmist calls out for a king who will bring profound peace and flowering justice to a world where all the tribes will be blessed. That kind of world seems so different from what we see, and it’s easy to get discouraged. Yet despite great obstacles, the deep desire for peace and justice proclaimed in the ancient psalm is still alive today in art, music, religion, civil action and individual acts of courage and kindness. Where does this desire come from? In one of his Narnia stories, C.S. Lewis’s character Aslan the Lion said, “You would not have called to me unless I had been calling to you.” In this Advent season may the great calling out for peace and justice that echoes across time give us hope as we recognize that we are calling back to the one who first called to us.

Mike Lake, Financial Analyst, Business Office

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

Luke 1: 5-25. *The angel said, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son and you shall name him John...” Then Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this?”*

When I was about eight years old, I found a pamphlet that posed a provocative question that I’ve never forgotten. It said, “Did you know you could actually miss heaven by eighteen inches?” As I read further, it explained that about a foot and a half separates the head from the heart and that God is not just an idea to give assent to with our minds but a Person to encounter in the depths of our innermost being. In Luke’s gospel we get a glimpse of this eighteen-inch journey of both Mary and Zechariah. They share much in common: both are troubled when the angel Gabriel appears; both are told not to be afraid; both are given the name of their child; both are promised the Holy Spirit; and both ask a question in response to the good news of the angel. Despite their similarities, the angel looks favorably on Mary’s response while Zechariah is chastised and punished. As we look closer, we see that Mary trusts the word of the angel and then asks a question, while Zechariah seems to want his question answered first and then implies that only after he will trust. Although Zechariah reminds us that God’s call takes us beyond our comfort zone, Mary reminds us that faith involves first a decision to trust. Only after does understanding begin. As St. Augustine put it: “Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe.”

Daniel G. Groody, C.S.C.

Waiting in Joyful Hope 2019-2020, Liturgical Press, pp. 46-47.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16. *Should you build me a house to dwell in?*

I feel that 2020 has been a year where the structural problems in our society have been clearly manifested. A year where I have struggled to keep faith in a better future and to determine what my role should be in building that future. In this text, I was struck by the question God poses to David: “Should you build me a house to dwell in?” I felt that God was providing an example of the type of leadership our time demands. God’s commitment is to a better world for David and his people, not to his own glorification. This is followed by God’s promise, not for a better world for David, but for his children. This was a reminder to me that God’s promise, and our faith, is not that this year will be great, but if we embody God we can make a more just world for those who follow.

Brian Lancor, Senior Lecturer, Chemistry, Geoscience and Physics

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

Zephaniah 3: 14-18a. *God is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear. Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged! Your God is in your midst, a mighty savior; who will rejoice over you with gladness, renew you in love, and sing joyfully because of you.*

In reading this passage, what resonated for me were two themes. The first was that good will (eventually) overcome evil, and the second was that our Higher Power truly does delight in each of us. 2020 has been anything but uplifting. We are living through unprecedented times. I’ve heard many a friend question “Why us?” or “Why now?” Many of us have had moments of deep introspection, and I’m sure many of us have wrestled with these very same questions, I know I have. As an LGBTQ+ person, I’ve often become exhausted and frustrated as my community’s human rights are challenged daily by certain sub-sets of our society. This passage has reminded me that my inherent worth and dignity will always be intact and that my Higher Power does rejoice in me simply because “I am.”

*Jeanne Benink, Program Coordinator
Science Outreach and Academic Support, School of Liberal Arts, Education and Sciences*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

1 Samuel 2: 1, 4-8. *My heart exults in God, my horn is exalted in my God...The bows of the mighty are broken, while the tottering gird on strength. The well-fed hire themselves out for bread, while the hungry batten on spoil.*

In this selection from scripture we find a series of contradictions all of which are attributed to God: the barren wife bears seven sons; God puts to death and gives life; makes poor and makes rich; humbles and exalts; raises the needy from the dust, etc. Each of the contradictions seems to happen with a blink of an eye and the initial element the complete opposite of the second. We might conclude that this is impossible. However, what if we considered this change as a transformative process happening over time? As teachers, leaders, learners attempting to stimulate change, we are well aware of how long it takes for a person to “get it”; how difficult it is to change the culture; how long before one sees the light. Transformation is the slow work of God. Our work is to be the catalyst to start the process and to be aware of the transformation taking place.

Barbara Dannhausen, O.P., Edgewood College, B.A., 1962

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

Malachi 3: 1-4, 23-24. *... like the refiner’s fire, or like the fuller’s lye.*

Refiners used incredibly hot fires to draw out silver from raw ore, repeating the process until the pure precious metal was obtained. Fullers, tasked with cleaning and whitening cloth and wool, used scrubbing and beating techniques along with soaking and soap (lye). Like the silver and cloth undergoing sustained, intense processes in order to become improved and prepared for use, may we reflect upon and be positively changed from our experiences during this difficult year. Let us honor the people and things we now realize we have taken for granted, work to heal deep divides among us, and face our uncertain future with honesty, knowledge, and empathy.

Carrie Firman, Associate Professor for Graphic Design, Art Department

CHRISTMAS EVE, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

Isaiah 9: 1-6. *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.*

We live these days in “the land of gloom,” a time of great cynicism, inequality, and oppression; a time when brute violence is seen as strength and domination as a virtue, a time when the roar of fear muffles our better angels. The world is wracked by a plague of biblical proportions that preys most upon the disadvantaged, the elderly, the sick, the imprisoned. But the Prophet Isaiah gives us hope. He tells us of a great turning, “a light that has shone” that will free us of the “yoke...the pole...and the rod” of tyrants.

With this turning, with this gift from God, we can again find the light within us; with this God given light, we can have deep joy and the hope of peace, and a just cause for celebration.

Susan Rustick, Associate Professor, English Department

CHRISTMAS DAY, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

Luke 2: 1-20. *And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.*

Angels sang to the shepherds, proclaiming “GOOD NEWS WITH GREAT JOY!” “A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN FOR YOU!” and “GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!” The shepherds rushed to find Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus and declared what they had seen. Yet, Mary was quiet. She “kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” What are we to make of her quietude and reflection? It lies in contrast to the angels’ heralding message, the shepherds’ excitement, and her arduous journey with Joseph to be counted in the census. Perhaps in her wisdom, she knew the daunting task that lay before her: to raise a child of light in a world of darkness. Perhaps she knew that as she ushered in a new life, a new day would dawn. A dawn filled with the joy of giving. A new season of kindness and compassion. A new year of love, peace, and hope.

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Thank you for sharing this Advent Journey with us
— to all who contributed reflections, and to you who have taken the time to pause, read, reflect, and pray during this Season. We wish you God’s holy gifts of joy, hope and peace in this sacred season.

*Dominican Life and Mission
Edgewood College*

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We welcome your feedback.

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*Reflections available during Advent
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