

Reflection Thursday Lent 5 The Annunciation – 2021

Pope Francis: *“The passage from Luke’s Gospel today tells about a decisive and revolutionary moment in history. It is a turbulent situation, everything changes, history is turned upside down. It is difficult to preach about this passage. And, at Christmas or the Annunciation when we profess the faith, we profess this mystery kneeling. It is the moment when everything changes from the root. Liturgically, today is the day of the root. The Antiphon that marks the meaning of today is the root of Jesse, “from which a shoot will be born”. God lowers himself; God enters history and does so in his original style: a surprise. The God of surprises, surprises us (again).”* If God lowers himself to become human in Jesus, in Mary we are lifted up to the heights of our humanity. Isn’t the bigger surprise of the annunciation the fact that God sought our cooperation in saving us from sin and death and winning for us eternal life? Time and again in scripture God works with us in providing the help we need. God never imposes his will.

God sends angels to us every day, just as God sent Gabriel to Mary. The angel comes with an invite to work with God over something important for us, for others, for the wider community. Accepting the invitation will make all the difference. Unfortunately, expect these encounters to be something extraordinary, as in today’s encounter, we miss them. Mary, however, grew with an awareness of God’s presence around her, all the time. She was not fazed by the encounter only by the question.

Let **Macrina Wiederkehr** help us become more aware of angels:

Holiness comes wrapped in the ordinary. There are burning bushes all around you. Every tree is full of angels. Hidden beauty is waiting in every crumb . . .

I (Macrina) wind in and out of people’s lives. Having touched them, I am blessed. Having touched me, they are blessed. Our roots are deepened. Our wings are strengthened. We have given each other grace to live more deeply.

Malcolm Guite – Theotokos

*You bore for me the One who came to bless
and bear for all and make the broken whole.*

*You heard His call and in your open ‘yes’
you spoke aloud for every living soul.*

*Oh gracious Lady, child of your own child,
whose mother-love still calls the child in me,
call me again, for I am lost, and wild.*

*Waves surround me now. On this dark sea
Shine as a star and call me to the shore.*

*Open the door that all my sins would close
and hold me in your garden. Let me share
the prayer that folds the petals of the Rose.*

*Enfold me too in Love’s last mystery
and bring me to the One you bore for me.*