

# Whispers of the Spirit



## Meditations for December 12<sup>th</sup> to December 18<sup>th</sup>

*Whispers of the Spirit* is a ministry of Deacon Carolyn Quinnell and friends.  
This week's selections have been written by Sandy Freiberger

**Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>** Zephaniah 3:14-20 / Canticle 9 /  
Philippians 4:4-7 / Luke 3:7-18

*Canticle 9- Cry aloud inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy\**

Today marks the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent. The candle that is lit today stands for JOY. It is also known as the Shepherd's candle. We participate in the season of Advent as a waiting and preparation in celebration of the birth of Christ. The shepherds were in awe and then experienced the great joy when the angels started to sing and proclaim the birth of baby Jesus. In the waiting and preparation, we can also use this as a time of reflection. I choose to reflect on the joy that I have since the arrival of Jesus in my heart. That was the birth of my soul as I chose to follow my Savior. If you are searching for joy, reach out to Him. If you are not sure, like the shepherds, ask Jesus to come into your heart. The angels, both heavenly and earthly, will show you the way and how to feel the Joy of Jesus.

*Rejoice in the Lord, always. Amen ~*

**Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** Zachariah 1:7-17 / Psalm 41, 52 /  
Revelation 3:7-13 / Matthew 24:15-31

*Psalm 52:9 I will thank you forever, because of what you have done. In the presence for the faithful I will proclaim your name, for it is good.*

Oh yes, God's name is indeed good. And, as such, we should proclaim it to be good. But why should we proclaim it in the presence of the faithful? We do this when we worship together. We do this during the regular services, ministry meetings, ultreyas etc. This is great because we support and uplift each other. But I do not think that this proclamation is only for the faithful. We must be willing to share the goodness of God's name with others outside of

our church. This is our mission. Share the glory of God and give honor to His name. We never know when we might be sowing seeds, entertaining angels or lifting up someone who needs to hear some good news.

*Psalm 41:13 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen ~*

**Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** Zachariah 2:1-13 / Psalm 45/  
Revelation 3:14-22 / Matthew 24:32-44

*Revelation 3:20 Listen! I am standing at the door knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in \**

I remember waiting for loved ones to arrive at my home. I was in the Army then so when I had family coming for a visit I was excited and waited in anticipation of their arrival. I did not know exactly when they would show up, but the excitement peaked when I saw them pull into the driveway or when they got off the plane. It is a wonderful feeling being part of Advent. The anticipation of the arrival of the Christ Child was not met with such excitement because we didn't know, much less understand, the true meaning of his birth. We do not know the particulars of His second coming either. But with both, we have an excitement brewing within us. Let's be on the watch for the Lord this Advent season and of His return.

*Come Lord Jesus, come. Amen ~*

**Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>** Zechariah 3:1-10 / Psalm 119:49-72 /  
Revelation 4:1-8 / Matthew 24:45-51

*Psalm 119:61 Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me, I do not forget your law.*

This month of December can be both joyous and stressful. The hustle and bustle of trying to shop for that "just right" gift can be fun or it can be overwhelming. This is the first year I will not be shopping for my Mom. I used to love to shop for her and anticipate

the look of joy on her face and in her heart. And at the time I was shopping for her was the time I would get caught up in the commercialism of Christmas. Yes, it was a way to show her how much I loved her. But she was also happy with just having a nice card that expressed my wish of happiness for her. The Lord doesn't want us to become ensnared with the lavishing of gifts. He wants us to tell Him how much we love Him and the giving of time, treasures and talents. Quite simple when you think of it. Let us truly remember the reason of the season.

*Lord, please open our hearts and minds for you. Amen ~*

**Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>** Zechariah 4:1-14 / Psalm 50 /  
Revelation 4:9–5:5 / Matthew 25:1-13

*Revelation 5:5 \*Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has conquered\**

Which came first, the chicken of the egg? I say the chicken because the Bible says that God created the fowl of the air. Was Jesus a Jew or a Christian? A Jew, simply because he is the foundation for our Christianity. Okay, so... we need to have Christmas before Easter. Jesus became incarnate as a baby, born of a virgin and miraculously. He is the Lion of Judah, meaning He is a descendent of David. Jesus had to be born so that we could have Easter. We, as Christians, celebrate the birth of Christ. The date is not important as the date was declared by humans. What is important is that we celebrate the arrival of this wonderful miracle, so that we can remind ourselves that because of the birth and crucifixion, we have redemption.

*Come baby Jesus, come. Amen ~*

**Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** Zechariah 7:8–8:8 / Psalm 40, 54 /  
Revelation 5:6-14 / Matthew 25:14-30

*Psalm 40:16 But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually "Great is the Lord!"*

This Psalm goes on to say, “As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me\*”. Mary and Joseph did not have much money or the finer things in life. They were devoted to their God none the less. They basically lodged in a cave that fateful night when Jesus was born. They had traveled to do what was right in the eyes of the law. Jesus was wrapped in swaddling clothes. Now, a lot of us may think of the perfect picture of a baby Jesus wrapped in a nice blue blanket, but not so. Swaddling clothes are more like rags that have been torn/cut into strips that are used to keep the baby quiet and secure. This precious baby being born and wrapped in rags grew to be a man who would be the King of the Jews. He called us brother and sister. Can you think of anything better than to be a part of the royal family of God? Come celebrate the King.

*Joy to the world, the Lord is coming. Amen ~*

**Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>** Zechariah 8:9-17 / Psalm 55 /  
Revelation 6:1-17 / Matthew 25:31-46

*Psalm 55:16 But I call upon God, and the Lord will save me.*

One week from today will be Christmas. The season of Advent is  $\frac{3}{4}$  the way through. By now, hopefully, the cards and annual letters have all been mailed, the shopping list is complete and we are speeding toward a week from today. But wait! Take a breath and bask in the glory of the season. Did we forget the one gift that means the most? Nothing like frankincense or myrrh or gold. I am talking about the gift of love, especially for our Lord. Call upon God, give praises to His name. For we will be celebrating the birth of our Savior and King. O’ come let us adore Him.

*I hope and pray that all who read this will have the most amazing Christmas ever! God Bless us all ~*

