

The Liturgy for May 3, 2020

~Thought for Meditation:

Beware saying yes to an angel, for you can take part in a thrilling but dangerous scheme with no script and no guarantees. You can agree to smuggle God into the world inside your own body.

Barbara Brown Taylor

~GATHERING & LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

~CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed!

Leader: Alleluia!

People: Alleluia and Amen!

~OPENING PRAYER ENDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

We know the season has changed, O God, and we dwell now in Easter. But so much is unchanged. We remain in isolation, and uncertain about the future. In this time together, may a sense of the Resurrection stir within us. Fill us with your Spirit, with your Life, with your Hope. Fill us with your Love, that will cast out our fear.

This we pray in the name of the Risen Christ, saying:

Our Father who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil,

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,

For ever and ever. Amen.

~Music: Sing a favourite Christmas carol about angels!

~Scripture: Matthew 1: 18-24

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,

~Reflection: *On Fear and Scowls and Resistance: A Question of Angels in the Off Season*

Music: *Be Not Afraid* Bob Dufford, S.J., arr.: D. Wagner

https://www.hopecublishing.com/W1044_BE_NOT_AFRAID/

~Closing Prayer: (with thanks to Philip Newell, and the writer of Hebrews)

May we be open to your messengers this day O God, and all the days to come. And though we may not recognize them, may we ‘be not afraid to entertain strangers, for we might just entertain angels unaware.’

May the universe be on fire with your wild Presence for us this day.

May the new sun’s rising grace us with gratitude.

Let earth’s greenness shine and its waters breathe with Spirit.

Let heaven’s winds stir our souls and fresh awakenings rise within us.

May fierce angels summon us to reverence,

And may they call us to life.

Amen.

~Benediction