

Advent 4th Dec: The God who waits

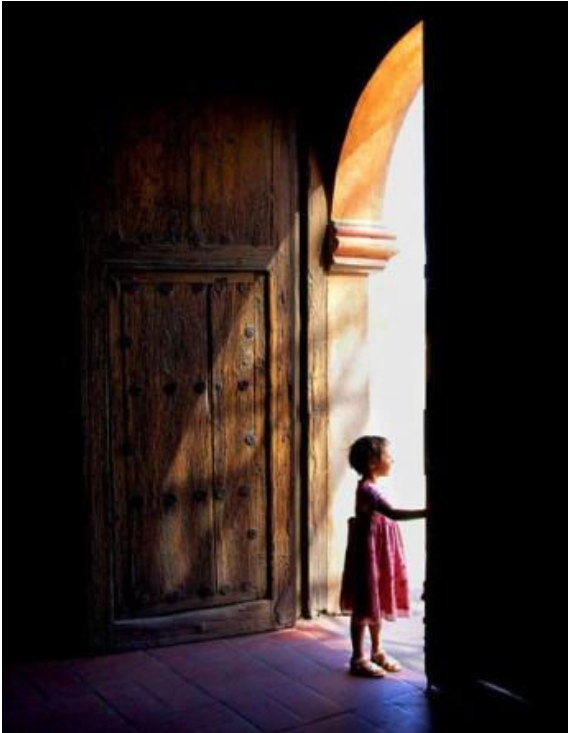


Photo by Drew Ginn, Google Images

The story continues...

It so happened that as Zachariah was carrying out his priestly duties before God, working the shift assigned to his regiment, it came his one turn in life to enter the sanctuary of God and burn incense. The congregation was gathered and praying outside the Temple at the hour of the incense offering. Unannounced, an angel of God appeared just to the right of the altar of incense. Zachariah was paralyzed in fear. But the angel reassured him, "Don't fear, Zachariah. Your prayer has been heard. Elizabeth, your wife, will bear a son by you. You are to name him John. You're going to leap like a gazelle for joy, and not only you—many will delight in his birth. He'll achieve great stature with God." (Luke 1:8-16)

We think of Advent as a time of waiting, a time when we are waiting, with all the challenges that waiting holds for us.

Reflection

Today's verses focusing on John the Baptist's ministry, suggest that there is another who waits. John comes to 'turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God'.

Perhaps it is we who are being asked to turn to God and God who is waiting?

What feelings are around for you as you reflect on the suggestion that God may be waiting?

How might you quietly give your attention to God now, where you are?

Talk with God, or just be together.

Continue giving God your attention for as long as you are able to.

As you draw the time to a close note any changes in your feelings that have occurred.

Action

Having considered that God may be waiting are there any changes you want to make to your Advent practices?

A blessing

The bright light of God's guarding be with you
The bright light of Christ's love be with you
The bright light of the spirit's presence
surround and enfold you
All the days and nights of your life.
Amen.

Jane Edwards