

Advent: 4th December - Prospects



Newlyborn infant, Georges de la Tour

Whilst working Zechariah is unexpectedly visited by angel. Frozen with fear he is told what his prospects are - joy and delight.

Opening prayer

Bless to me, O God,
The earth beneath my foot,
Bless to me, O God,
The path whereon I go.

Garmina Gadelica

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)

Silence and Imaginative exercise

Imagine yourself in the story. Who are you? Cycle through your senses. What do you see, touch, taste, hear and smell? (4 minute?)

Thought

Do I fear listening to what God might say because I expect to hear something I don't like?
What am I afraid God may say? Might his words actually be kind and true?

Closing Blessing

Be a bright flame before me,
Be a guiding star above me,
Be a smooth path below me,
And be a kindly shepherd behind me,
To-day, to-night, and for ever.

Garmina Gadelica