



APC Advent Devotional – December 5th, 2020

The work begins

Today's Scripture: Mark 5:27-34 (NIV)

“When the song of the angels is stilled
When the star in the sky is gone
When the kings and princess are home
When the shepherds are back with their flocks
The work of Christmas begins: ...”



Howard Thurman wrote those lines. I posted that poem on Facebook last year, on December 26th. I had no idea that we would have a pandemic this year.

Thurman continues to explain, the work of Christmas is: “to **find** the lost, to **heal** the broken, to **feed** the hungry, to **release** the prisoner, to **rebuild** the nations, to **bring peace** among the people and to **make music** in the heart.”

At the end of last year I thought I would give my best to do those points. But in the midst of social distancing, real and partial lockdown, face masks and disinfectant, I found that it was already hard enough to keep focused on the Lord as the only solid rock, and not get lost in the sinking sand of my own anxieties, frustration and shame of my weaknesses.

Probably that is how the woman in Mark 5 felt, and yet Jesus demanded her to reveal her faith by asking, “Who touched my clothes?” After hesitating for a moment she came trembling and fell at Jesus’ feet. In front of all people she admitted that by touching his cloak she has been healed. Jesus replied, “Your faith has healed you. Go in peace...” - What a relief.

That’s a call for us, too. Have faith, that just by admitting our weaknesses we will be guided. By reaching out to God we will be given new strength. And by surrendering our pains we will be healed. Let’s answer that call, and try again to do the work of Christmas!

Prayer: For the love, for the grace, for the blessings, we thank you, Lord! Amen.