

6th December 2020 – Second Sunday in Advent

Messenger

“The busy lark, messenger of day.”

Geoffrey Chaucer, The Canterbury Tales

As the lark is the “messenger of day” for Chaucer, today, the second Sunday of Advent, we remember that John the Baptist is the messenger of the new day God promises with Jesus’ birth. Before you launch into the Christmas narratives, take time to read chapter 1 of the Gospel of John. There’s no “birth story” here. But, before anything else, The Baptist proclaims the message and meaning of Jesus’ coming. Here’s my interpretation of the importance of this proclamation in the Advent journey.

*The messenger stood in the front of the crowd
And called for a silence from all those around.
They listened with dignity, some with heads bowed,
The day the messenger came.*

*His voice ever calm and his words always clear,
His message was simple, his meaning sincere.
They listened intently, and some shed a tear,
The day the messenger came.*

*No long explanations were needed; no pleas;
No forceful persuasion; the truth came with ease.
They listened in wonder; some fell to their knees,
The day the messenger came.*

*‘God’s Love is incarnate’, the message they heard.
‘The Truth is amongst you, no longer deferred;
The Way is before you; I give you my Word.’
The day the messenger came.*

*The crowd stood and listened; and some felt a chill;
Some harboured suspicion; some plotted to kill;
Some scratched at their heads, and are wondering still,
The day the messenger came.*

*But some saw the spirit descend like a dove;
And some glimpsed the hope and the faith and the love;
And some knew this truth was their gift from above –
The day the messenger came.*

From *Welcoming Each Wonder* by Tom Gordon

A prayer for today

Lord, help me to listen to the message before I try to understand the meaning. Amen

*An original reflection by © Tom Gordon
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