

Advent Devotion

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FROM:

- [Mary Hanke](#)

TO:

- [Jean Kim](#)

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Saturday, December 24, 2011 12:21 PM

Message body

I think you will appreciate this, too. Much love, M

Mary E Hanke
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From: janetdewater@newportpres.org
To: meh6308@hotmail.com
Subject: FW: Advent Devotion
Date: Thu, 22 Dec 2011 09:47:21 -0800

Thought you'd enjoy this devotion about Mary, "fierce and strong."

Janet

From: SFTS Chaplain's Office [mailto:info@sfts.edu]
Sent: Thursday, December 22, 2011 5:03 AM
To: janetdewater@newportpres.org
Subject: Advent Devotion

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SAN FRANCISCO
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

JOY OF EVERY LONGING HEART Daily Advent Devotions

Thursday, Dec. 22, 2011

The Word Mary Bears into the World

[Luke 1: 46-56](#)

The hymn *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* speaks of Mary, meek and mild: "Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head." In the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-56), there is no sign of Mary, meek and mild. This is Mary, fierce and strong.

Early in the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke, the gospel writer clears the stage of all the men. Zechariah is silenced for his failure to trust God, and what remains are women and angels speaking. The gospel writer opens up a space in a patriarchal world where there are no men, and look at what the women do: They preach. Elizabeth and Mary proclaim the good news of what God is doing in the world in Jesus Christ.

And listen to what Mary has to say: "My life magnifies God. God has looked on God's slavegirl with favor. God has scattered the proud. God has brought down the powerful, and lifted up the lowly. God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty." Mary preaches God's re-ordering of power in the world in Jesus Christ. The hungry, fed. Those who had been pushed down, now lifted up. This is the word that Mary preaches. This is the Word that Mary then bears into the world.

At a recent SFTS workshop on the Virgin Birth, Professor Annette Weissenrieder suggested that Mary is "the prototype disciple." If that's the case, then this text asks

us: Where are we preaching and living like this? Where are we bearing Christ into the world like this? The hungry, fed. Those who have been pushed down, lifted up.

This is the pregnant moment of Advent: the Word of God waiting to come into the world - in Mary - and in us.

Rev. Scott Clark

SFTS Interim Associate Dean of Student Life and Chaplain

SFTS M.Div. 2009

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