



Advent 3- "Birthing the Divine within Us" and
"Surrogacy of The Sacred"

Isaiah 35:1-10

"Just Do The Next Right Thing..."

Greetings Blessed Ones and Welcome back as our gestational journey of Advent continues now at the 3rd Sunday of Advent as we seek to Birth the Divine within us. As we accept and fulfill our role as Surrogates for the Sacred. We are truly with our Blessed Mary now both symbolically and spiritually as we begin to feel the strong changes within us. We are in transition, something is

changing and growing in us like it has a life all its own... which in fact it does.

We are now deep into that 2nd trimester, spiritual growth is exponential, the changes are coming quickly and often. Many of them are hard to adapt to. We don't fit very well into our old and comfortable clothes. Our old familiar wardrobe is now alien to us, as we ripen and round as our Divineness matures within. The behaviors and actions that once defined us are no longer appropriate if we want our Blessedness to be healthy, whole and true. Just like in physical pregnancy we have had to make lifestyle changes to give our Spirit child within us the best chance for thriving. This time is hard.

Long gone is the giddy elation of the First Trimester, of the “newly minted Christian.” Past are the ultrasound pictures on Facebook, the joyful renovations of the nursery have been completed. Our pregnancy is no longer new news. Here in Advent 3 we are deep into the hard work of spiritual growth, where it is often uncomfortable, challenging and we sometimes can question why we even started in the first place. And how are we possibly going to complete this Holy Task?

And now Blessed Ones.... I have your long-awaited answer.... The Hallmark Christmas Channel.

Yes, I confess... the Hallmark Christmas Channel is one of my personal Christmas traditions and one that makes me the brunt of countless family

jokes. If you are not familiar with this particular cinematic species, well let's just say that in the Christmas world of Hallmark TV, there is always a happy ending, the lovers always end up together, families are smiling, it never fails to be a White Christmas and everyone's caroling voices are impeccable.

Reality... well maybe. But what I have found with these Christmas stories of joy aside from their constancy, positiveness and yes predictability is a remarkable similarity to the simple parables of our Beloved Jesus. Jesus' stories were always simple, with the message only slightly veiled just below the surface. One doesn't have to dig too deeply to find buried thematic treasure and meaning.

And so it was on this particular late Sunday afternoon. The wetness of our Vancouver winter all around, the Seahawks victory was fresh, Mona, Jennalee and Lyric were all deep into a well-deserved late afternoon nap. With fire in the fireplace and hot tea at my side... I joyfully and expectantly joined the Hallmark Channel for my pre-Christmas fix.

This particular story did not disappoint. Two beautiful, young, intelligent ones were battling life decisions that deeply affected their respective futures. Take the big job in the city? The one that was always dreamed of... or leave behind the small-town life and small-town love that was just beginning to emerge. Leave family and friends for big city success? Or stay and nurture this

emerging seed of love... just beginning, wrapped in the warmth of family and tranquility? What to do?

Then the wise, old family elder seated together with his struggling granddaughter on the snowy porch, each gestating a decision of their own, offers the deep wisdom that only elders seem to understand.

“Don’t worry to much about tomorrow my dear. It will come anyway no matter what you decide. But Dear, if you just do the next ‘right thing’, the journey and the decisions that go with them will take care of themselves...”

This parable screamed truth to me... perhaps ultimate truth! Reinforcing all that I have instinctually understood and then learned along

the way... “short interval control”; one day at a time; be present in the moment.

Living our spiritual journey one decision at a time. Taking our small steps along our own spiritual paths, one small step at a time. How?

Simply by “doing the next Right Thing.” How do we birth the Divine within us? How do we become Surrogates of the Sacred yearning for life within us this Advent? Decision by Decision, moment by moment.

Just do the next right thing... just do the next right thing. It is just that simple and sometimes just as difficult. Words so profound and simple that they could have been spoken by our Beloved Jesus on the Mount, beside the lake, or as he bravely and honorably walked to His death.

“Just do the next right thing!” And when we do, that Sacredness within us, The Divine Spirit that is growing inside us this Advent season will scream forth... breathing and alive.

Isaiah says: “Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm your shaking knees. Say to those with fear in their hearts... Be Strong! Here is your God... he is coming to save you. Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped, and the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the speechless will sing!

A highway will be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way, and those who walk it will have joy upon their heads, and gladness will fill their hearts. And sorrow and sighing will flee away...”

This is the promise, my Blessed Ones. This is why we do the work... this is why we walk the birthing road this Advent Season... this is why we... *“Just do the next Right thing.”*

Blessings and a joyful day to you and yours.

Amen.