

Integral Faith

"Homily helps and liturgy resources highlighting care for our common home."



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 4th Sunday of Advent, Cycle C (December 22, 2024)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Micah 5: From you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; he shall be peace.

Hebrews 10: I come to do your will.

Luke 1: And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me.
Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.

† Comments for the Day:

Each and every human being is created in the image and likeness of God. Every person and every creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us.

Believing that truth can be hard at times.

Frequently, in our society, we value some more than others. We accept as fact that some people deserve to live in splendor and abundance while many others wallow in miserable, sub-human conditions. How easy it is to forget that God created everything for everybody, and that all creation is interdependent. When some are left out, excluded or neglected, we all suffer the consequences, not just those who are materially poor.

Even the tiny, rural, insignificant Bethlehem speaks to us of our beloved Creator, and it is chosen as the birthplace of the long-awaited Messiah of Israel. An old barren woman long passed her childbearing years and her kinswoman, a young virgin, come together to try and understand their mysterious and most unusual of pregnancies. The most precious infant ever born is relegated to a stable, to be laid to rest in a trough from which the animals regularly eat!

Those considered to be worth less, truly insignificant and a bothersome burden are startlingly chosen by God to shame and call to conversion those who enjoy the many privileges and benefits of our consumer-oriented society. Bethlehem, Mary and Elizabeth are only the beginning of a story that will shape a world and bring it to its toes in anticipation and excitement, knowing that it has discovered its worth.

This resource is provided by Catholic Climate Covenant in collaboration with the Integral Faith Team, a group of male and female religious, priests, and lay people dedicated to serving the Church.

As people who choose to be part of this new world, anticipating and promoting its growth among us, may we learn to see ourselves in relation to God, others, and indeed all of creation, in order to recognize that we are all of infinite value, all interdependent, all needed to build up a better world for all.

How grateful we will truly be when we come to realize more fully the depth of God's love for each of the works of creation! This immense and incomprehensible love allows us the freedom to choose to join in the work of creation! The challenge to respect each creature, appreciate and care for each in its place, the hope to be actively involved in building up the reign of God!

Our God speaks to us in the language of those who have been left out, loving us into becoming active participants in the recreation of our common home. Christmas approaches.

† **Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:**

Our insistence that each human being is an image of God should not make us overlook the fact that each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains, everything, as it were, a caress of God. (84)

When we can see God reflected in all that exists, our hearts are moved to praise the Lord for all his creatures and to worship him in union with them. (87)

The culture of relativism is . . . the mindset of those who say: Let us allow the invisible forces of the market to regulate the economy, and consider their impact on society and nature as collateral damage. . . This same "use and throw away" logic generates so much waste, because of the disordered desire to consume more than what is necessary. (123)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we will be moved to respect and protect all life, as a reflection of the manifestation of God in our midst, let us pray to the Lord.

Option 2: That expectant parents may welcome with joy the new lives growing within them, and will appreciate all of God's creation that will help sustain them, let us pray to the Lord.

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

Webpage: www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help

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