

Contemplative Noonday Prayer and Scriptural Reflection

St. Columba's Episcopal Church
Inverness, CA | March 25, 2020



(photo credit: <http://www.catholictv.org/blog/3-things-catholics-celebrate-the-feast-the-annunciation>)

Feast of The Annunciation

Officiant: O God, make speed to save us.

People: O Lord, make haste to help us.

(All) **Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.**

Officiant Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Ubi Caritas / Live in Charity

Ostinato Refrain

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.
live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.

Text: 1 Corinthians 13:2-8; *Where charity and love are found, God is there*; Taizé Community, 1978

Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

© 1978, 1980, 1981, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

PSALM 40 (Stephen Mitchell translation)

I trusted you, Lord, and waited,
and you came to answer my plea.

You lifted me from the pit,
 you pulled me out of the mire,
you set my feet on firm ground,
 you made my steps unshakable.

You put a new song in my mouth
 and gave me the power to praise you.
You opened me to the truth;
 suddenly my eyes could see it.
And I knew you don't care about rituals
 or the mummeries of religion.
The only thing that you want
 is our whole being, at every moment.

Hold me in your embrace, Lord;
 make me transparent in your light.
Grant me awareness; keep
 my gratitude fresh each day.

Let my song give blessing and insight
 to those who can't see for themselves.
And let your compassion always
 shine forth from the depths of my heart.

**(All) Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.**

A reading from the *Gospel According to Luke*, (1:26-38, NRSV)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Officiant Hear what the Spirit is saying.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Celtic Contemplation

Please sit comfortably and close your eyes for 15 minutes of silent meditation. Chimes will sound to end the time.

For today's reflection:

"If you wish to understand the Creator, first understand His creation."
~ St. Columbinus

< Meditation: 15 minutes >

Officiant: Kyrie Eleison

People: Christe Eleison

Officiant: Kyrie Eleison

Please join now in praying as Jesus taught:

(ALL) Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Officiant: Lord, hear our prayer;

People: **And let our cry come to you.**

Officiant: Let us pray, using words from the *Ita Compline*¹

Search me, O God, and know my heart.

Test me and know my thoughts.

Keep Your people, Lord, in the arms of Your embrace.

Shelter them under Your wings.

[Please offer your intercessions here, aloud or silently. Prayers given aloud are followed with:]

Intercessor: We pray to the Lord

People: Hear our prayer

Be their light in darkness.

Be their hope in distress.

Be their calm in anxiety.

Be strength in their weakness.

Be their comfort in pain.

Be their song in the night.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

¹ excerpted from the *Ita Compline*, Northumbria Community.

*Please remain with us for a discussion
today's scriptural reading.*

More information on the Feast of the Annunciation:

The Feast of the Annunciation, contemporarily the Solemnity of the Annunciation, also known as Lady Day, the Feast of the Incarnation, Conceptio Christi, commemorates the visit of the archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, during which he informed her that she would be the mother of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. (Wikipedia)

“The feast of the Annunciation began to be celebrated on this day during the fourth and fifth centuries, soon after the date for celebrating Christmas was universalized throughout the Church.” - Catholic News Agency

(<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/saint/solemnity-of-the-annunciation-of-the-lord-188>)