Advent Reflection

November 30, 2020

*HOPE*

**Isaiah 40:1-11** NRSV

Comfort, O comfort my people,
    says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
    and cry to her
that she has served her term,
    that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord’s hand
    double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:
“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
    make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
    and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
    and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
    and all people shall see it together,
    for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”
    And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All people are grass,
    their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
    when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
    surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
    but the word of our God will stand forever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
    O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
    O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
    lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
    “Here is your God!”
See, the Lord God comes with might,
    and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
    and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
    he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
    and gently lead the mother sheep.

**Reflection by Laura**

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Prepare ye the way of the New Born King!

Preparation!

The year 1961, First Christian Church, Victoria

The setting is cold,

sometimes a breeze,

awash with excitement,

full of anticipation.

People of all ages, from infant to elderly.... giddy...time crunch...they are coming...

Be ready...be in your costume...make sure you’ve got warm underclothing on.

Makeup and wigs, angel wings and halos, turbans, head cloths, staffs.

Angels, wisemen, shepherds, donkeys and sheep gather around the manger.

Me? One of the little angels worshiping the new born king...

It’s time! Get in place...ready...bright lights, so bright!

Lines of cars parading by...bright lights…so bright!

Donkeys bray, wind blows.

I am an angel...

Come see, adore, and worship the New Born King!

Fast forward...the year 1991, First Christian, Arlington

Shepherds Ken and Nicholas walk up the aisle to stand,

watching Mary and Joseph reveal the New Born King!

In joy to see the New Born King,

Excited Little Shepherd Nicholas begins moving...walks in front...cranes his neck

to see Mary and Joseph nestle the New Born King

Anticipation…Excitement...The King is born!

Fast forward...the year 2019, Barker Street, Arlington

Grandchildren Vi and Shep...playing with the nativity on the cedar chest.

Arranging. Rearranging wisemen, shepherds, animals...touching...

Rearranging Mary, Joseph and The New Born King!

Perhaps you have a memory to share.

Find a friend, share your story of preparation as it becomes real again.

Excitement never gets old.

Prepare ye the way for the Lord!