

Advent Reflection
December 14, 2020
JOY
Psalm 84 NRSV

How lovely is your dwelling place,
 O LORD of hosts!
My soul longs, indeed it faints
 for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy
 to the living God.
Even the sparrow finds a home,
 and the swallow a nest for herself,
 where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O LORD of hosts,
 my King and my God.
Happy are those who live in your house,
 ever singing your praise. *Selah*
Happy are those whose strength is in you,
 in whose heart are the highways to Zion.
As they go through the valley of Baca
 they make it a place of springs;
 the early rain also covers it with pools.

They go from strength to strength;
 the God of gods will be seen in Zion.
O LORD God of hosts hear my prayer;
 give ear, O God of Jacob! *Selah*
Behold our shield, O God;
 look on the face of your anointed.
For a day in your courts is better
 than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of
my God
 than live in the tents of wickedness.
For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
 he bestows favor and honor.
No good thing does the LORD withhold
 from those who walk uprightly.
O LORD of hosts,
 happy is everyone who trusts in you.

Reflection by Julia C.

I remember a moment in my life that I experienced a beautiful time with God in the sanctuary of our church. My friend, Paul, asked me to go with him to reset up his keyboard in the sanctuary. I had not been in the church since the Pandemic started. Paul had to go down the hall for something and I went to the sanctuary alone. There were no lights on only light was through the side windows. It was quiet and I felt at home. I sat down the front pew. I looked up at the cross and God in Christ filled my fearful heart and I felt so calm and at peace. It was a wonderful feeling in this hard time. I sat there for several minutes enjoying God's company. This also brought back memories of my family attending this church I love so much. My Mom, my sisters Anita and Kathy, and brother Carlton set in the middle pew in front of the pulpit many Sundays when I was young. Anita, Kathy and I were baptized here. My sisters were both were married here. My Mother's funeral was here. Memories fill this sanctuary. I have had many more memories singing with the choir, praise team and many other programs. "For here my heart is satisfied within your presence. I sing beneath the shadow of your wings." "I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free. His eye is on the sparrow and I know he watches me." I am praying for us to return to this sanctuary all together again where we all may be at one with God's guidance in Jesus Christ. In this coming Advent season let us have faith this will happen. We will return to God's Temple.