

Advent 2021

*“Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—
wonderful, joyous news for all people.
Luke 2:10 CEB*

Christmas Greetings,

According to Luke’s Gospel, angels proclaimed the *Good News* of God’s all-encompassing love to shepherds on a Bethlehem hillside. In whatever manner they heard this message, it would certainly have been wonderful. Sheep herders were rare recipients of kindness and respect.

Unkindness – unKINness -and disrespect are everywhere. But God’s affirmation of every human’s worth continues to be made known. Last week, Rabbi Braham David used an antisemitic incident to remind Medford that all paths to the Holy should be honoured in their own right. All should be heard in their own voice.

This week, it was announced that an updated edition of the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible has removed words and expressions that could offend, demean, or marginalize. The “unwavering goal [was] to render an accurate version of original source texts” into the most inclusive text possible. (*National Council of Churches of Christ, USA*)

The *Good News* of God’s radical love continues to make itself heard. God **IS** still speaking. Christmas still happens!

In this Holy season, we commemorate the birthing of God’s Word into the world – an *in-the-flesh* message of love to Creation. How can we possibly celebrate such an amazing event?

Through our own words and actions of inclusion and affirmation. By our own honourings of this planet and its people. In our own quiet listenings to angel voices.

Tune your ear and you will hear the wonderful, joyous news that God loves **YOU** madly.

May you be richly blessed, this Christmas.

Brenda