

## VIEW FROM THE HEIGHTS

December 2020

Greetings,

Advent is upon us: the season of waiting. We await the arrival (*Lt. adventus*) of the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. And we look for his arrival in our world today.

Like his mother, we believe that Jesus has the power to make a real difference in our lives and in the life of this planet. Choosing a peasant girl from a Judean backwater to further the Divine plan proved to *Mariam* that,

*The Lord has used  
his powerful arm  
to scatter those  
who are proud.  
He drags strong rulers  
from their thrones  
and puts humble people  
in places of power.  
God gives the hungry  
good things to eat,  
and sends the rich away  
with nothing.<sup>i</sup>*

As her pregnancy advanced, Mary didn't dream of high-end strollers and tricked out nurseries. Her hopes were focused on the liberation of her people from political and economic oppression. Together, she and God would start the revolution!

This year, most of us are dreaming of liberation. We want to be free of masks and social distancing. We long to be free to enjoy dinner out with friends and host big family gatherings. Liberation from so much illness and death is the desire of all our hearts.

Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca have become the loci of our hopes. Rightly so! We praise God for the gift of pharmaceuticals and the Divine Wisdom that inspires their science. But, as we journey towards Bethlehem, let us enlarge the scope of our aspirations. Like Mary, may we strive for a world where no one is hungry or homeless. Where those with modest means are as valued as those with bulging stock portfolios. A world where the voices of all people and the cries of the planet itself are honoured in the corridors of power.

This Advent, let us gestate the planet that God has always dreamed of.

*Do you know what I want?  
I want justice—oceans of it.  
I want fairness—rivers of it.  
That's what I want. That's all I want.<sup>ii</sup>*

Wishing you – and all Creation – a blessed Advent.

Brenda

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<sup>i</sup> Luke 1: 51-53 Contemporary English Version

<sup>ii</sup> Amos 5: 24 The Message