



Advent Reflection for Wednesday, December 1

Borah Coburn

You can listen to the reading and reflection by clicking [here](#).

John 1.1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Reading these words now, more than ever, I am struck by Advent as a season of hope, expectation, and faith. During this season we look forward to the celebration of the birth of Christ - a light in the darkness of the winter and the world, but also the light that is life itself. We await a birth - a spiritual birth of a Savior who will bring light to all people, but also the literal birth of that Savior as a human baby who enters the world small and utterly defenseless, amidst darkness.

I'm sure I am struck by this in a new way because this Advent season I am pregnant: expecting a little one to be born this May. And I have to say, personally, the total awe I feel at this everyday miracle that fills me with a new sense of gratitude and faith. "All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being." That rings true in every bone for me right now: the creation and existence of this world, our families, our communities, and the chance to nurture new life is nothing short of miraculous. And like a little baby, these miracles of light and life are both fragile and surprisingly resilient.

"What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people." That life feels literal - the life of a newborn child, our lives, the unimaginable richness of life on this planet - and spiritual: the light of all people that guides us through the darkness, helps us recognize each other as the precious and collective children of God, and helps us see not only what is, but also what can and should be.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." That light is still shining, and the darkness has never yet overcome it. Because there is life - literal and spiritual - and not just hope but the expectation that we can and must transform the world through love to weave ourselves together as a beloved community - to inch ever closer to making this world more like the Kingdom of Heaven in which all are loved and cared for, body and soul.

This Advent season, the precious fragility of the light - and the knowledge that it has never yet gone out - fills me with faith. We have been shrouded in darkness these past two years - and humanity has contended with darkneses of many kinds since the beginning. And yet, people are always falling in love, discovering friends, nurturing others, and bringing new life into the world. I am expecting and expectant: awash in beautiful and miraculous processes to nurture and prepare for a new life to arrive.

I hope this Advent season I can do more than passive waiting. I hope to transform my own expectation into actions - sleeping, eating, thinking, growing, caring, and giving - that help nurture literal and spiritual new life into being. I hope to shine light forth, mindful of its fragile need for care and devotion, and faithful in its power to overcome the darkness.

Borah lives with her husband and best friend, Tom, in Peekskill, NY where they sing, cook, and walk in the woods together. Borah and Tom were married at Holy Apostles last year and are now expecting their first child.

