



Advent Reflection for Wednesday, December 8

Carol Normandin

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

Psalm 119:105-106

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.

Reflecting on these two verses from Psalms was confusing at first. The idea of lamps illuminating our way produced more images of lamps on our heads like those used by cave explorers. Wouldn't those "headlights" be more beneficial, like car headlights that shine on the road ahead? Why just illuminate the ground at our feet? Don't we need to see where we are going? Then I thought of our lives in modern times. We are usually surrounded by an abundance of artificial light. Rarely do we encounter real, physical darkness. Perhaps the "lamp to our feet" image is more powerful in a darker age. But wait, aren't we living in a dark age now?

We still need to move forward. We can never see the future ahead of us, but we can trust the illuminated path beneath our feet. The "lamp to our feet" therefore, becomes an image for our foundation of faith— in scripture, in our community and in our personal spiritual experience.

This is the journey of Advent—trusting the light of the word to guide us toward the future. In these dark times of pandemic and turmoil, we walk the illuminated path forward toward Bethlehem.

I am a semi-retired high school teacher living in a Kansas City suburb. I am grateful for Zoom church and the opportunity to join the Holy Apostles' community along with my daughter Laura and her family, the Tyszkas, during this challenging time.

