



Advent Reflection for Sunday, December 12

Tom Wool

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

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

What does it mean that "the glory of the Lord has risen upon" me and that my light has come? How should I arise and shine?

I think it means treating yourself like a role model—even if you don't know to whom—living and acting like a model to someone else who may be watching. Goodness spreads among people. It is God's light. As members of the Christian community, we know how God expects us to live and to act, following His commandments and living by the Golden Rule. We should always try to take all our actions as potential paragons of moral behavior.

I'm thinking about being a role model much more lately because—as you may already have read or heard in Borah's reflection on Dec. 1st—we are expecting our first child, a daughter, in May. My whole life, I've been learning how to live in the world, and I'm still in the process of learning. How am I going to manage to teach someone else how to live well? Trying to live like God wants me to and recalling that God's light only comes to the world through us, seems like a start: living in hope that goodness spreads among people, including me.

The season of Advent happens in the literal darkest time of the year for us in the Northern Hemisphere, and the Advent season also reminds us, in Scripture readings and in church, of the metaphorical darkness that was before the coming of Jesus. The light of Jesus arises upon us and appears above us. Nations shall come to our light, and kings to the brightness of our dawn. The light comes through us and can only do so if we let it. In this dark season, let us be reminded to let the light of God shine through our actions and interactions with everyone we meet.

Tom has been a member of the Holy Apostles congregation since the spring of 2019. He got married to his best friend Borah in October 2020, and they are expecting their first child in May 2022! Tom works at the New York Public Library, teaching English and Citizenship classes to immigrant adults.

