

December 24, 2017

4th Sunday in Advent

God is present in reality no matter what unreality our practices and ponderings imply. He is forever trying to establish communication; forever aware of the wrong directions we are taking and seeking to warn us; forever offering solutions for the problems that baffle us; forever standing at the door of our loneliness, eager to bring us such comradeship as the most intelligent living mortal could not supply; forever clinging to our indifference in the hope that someday our needs, or at least our tragedies will waken us to respond to His advances. The Real Presence is just that, real and transforming. Nor are the conditions for the manifestation of His splendors out of the reach of any of us! Here they are; otherness, openness, obedience, obsession (From The Captivating Presence by Albert E. Day, 1971).

The fire of God, which is His essential being, His love, His creative power, is a fire unlike its earthly symbol in this, that it is only at a distance it burns—that the farther from Him, it burns the worse, and when we turn and approach Him, the burning begins to change to comfort, which comfort will grow to such bliss that the heart at length cries out with a gladness no other gladness can reach, “Whom have I in Heaven by Thee? And there is nothing upon earth that I desire besides Thee” (From Creation in Christ by George MacDonald, 1891)!

Next week: *Wesley Covenant Service*

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SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

Today: *Luke 1:26-38 (What is God saying to you?)*

Monday: *Luke 2:1-20*

Tuesday: *Psalms 77*

Wednesday: *Isaiah 40:1-11, 28-31*

Thursday: *Ezekiel 34:11-16*

Friday: *Isaiah 9:1-7*

Saturday: *Philippians 4:4-9*

I commend you to God and to the Word of His grace which
is able to build you up and give you the inheritance among
all those who are sanctified. Amen.

(Acts 20:32)

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