



Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

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THE ARK OF THE COVENANT OF THE LORD OF THE WHOLE EARTH WILL PRECEDE YOU

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's First Reading

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know I am with you, as I was with Moses." ... So Joshua said to the children of Israel, "Come here and listen to the words of the LORD, your God. This is how you will know that there is a living God in your midst, who at your approach will dispossess the Canaanites. The ark of the covenant of the LORD of the whole earth will precede you into the Jordan."

JOSHUA 3:7, 9-10a, 11

Reflection

At this point in the story of Israel, the leadership moves from Moses, who has

died, to Joshua. Through Joshua the LORD continues to remind the “children of Israel” that they will know the living God is in their midst because the ark of the covenant goes before them as they cross the Jordan River into the land of promise. The “ark” was a box that, on Mt. Sinai, Moses was ordered to construct (Ex. 25:10-26). Reportedly the box held the tablet of the Law as well as some manna. These represented the tangible presence of the living God in the midst of the people. As the presence of God, the ark was designated to lead them on their sojourn into the land of promise. Notably the LORD God is not only *with* the people, the Holy One *leads* them on their life journey . . . and apparently needs to keep reminding them of that promised reality. God’s people are not alone nor “lost.” The deepest and most expansive covenant promise declared by the LORD of the whole earth is “I will be with you.” In this passage, Joshua reminds the people that even more than “being with,” the LORD God goes before the people, leading them safely to their destination.



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For Pondering

- Which work of God [being with/ leading] do you recognize in your life?

- Who is the "Joshua" in your life, reminding you of God's active presence?
 - In what ways do you acknowledge the work of the LORD of the whole earth?
 - What is your response to God?
-

For Prayer

*Help me perceive Your Presence
and draw strength from it every moment of my life.
Let that recognition bolster my faith in You ---
wherever I go,
whatever I do.
Amen*

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