



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

HE SHALL BE PEACE

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Today's First Reading

The LORD says:

*You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah,
too small to be among the clans of Judah,
From you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel;
Whose origin is from of old, from ancient times.
(Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time
when she who is to give birth has borne,
And the rest of his brethren shall return to the children of Israel.)
He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock
by the strength of the LORD,
in the majestic name of the LORD, his God;
And they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the
earth; he shall be peace.*

Reflection

Ironically, it is the small, unimportant town of Bethlehem that the prophet Micah notes will be the birthplace of the Davidic messianic ruler of Israel. It is noteworthy that in God's scheme of things it is the most "unimportant" that produces the most significant.

The image of the humble shepherd easily recalls David. It is through the strength of God that King David is able to "shepherd" Israel. As his greatness reaches the farthest regions of the world, this new Davidic king from insignificant Bethlehem will be peace to the whole earth.

Since at least the 7th century, the birth of Mary has been celebrated this day, which is situated during the harvest season. She is thus remembered in the midst of life being brought forth to nourish and sustain. Such is the image of Mary.



Herd of sheep
Photo by Süleyman Şahan

For Pondering

- When have you ever noticed someone/something in your life that was

seen as insignificant, yet turned out to be vitally important? What difference did it make in your valuing of people/creation?

- How would you continue to live or begin to live if you were to be peace for the whole world? What thoughts or actions would be different?

For Prayer

*God,
help me learn to cherish peace,
to pursue peace,
to promote peace.
Save me
from the need to be always
right---
which leads only to
tension
and strife
and the belittling your of creation.
Amen.*

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