

January 9, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHRISTMAS

Photo by Sr. Karin Nürnberg

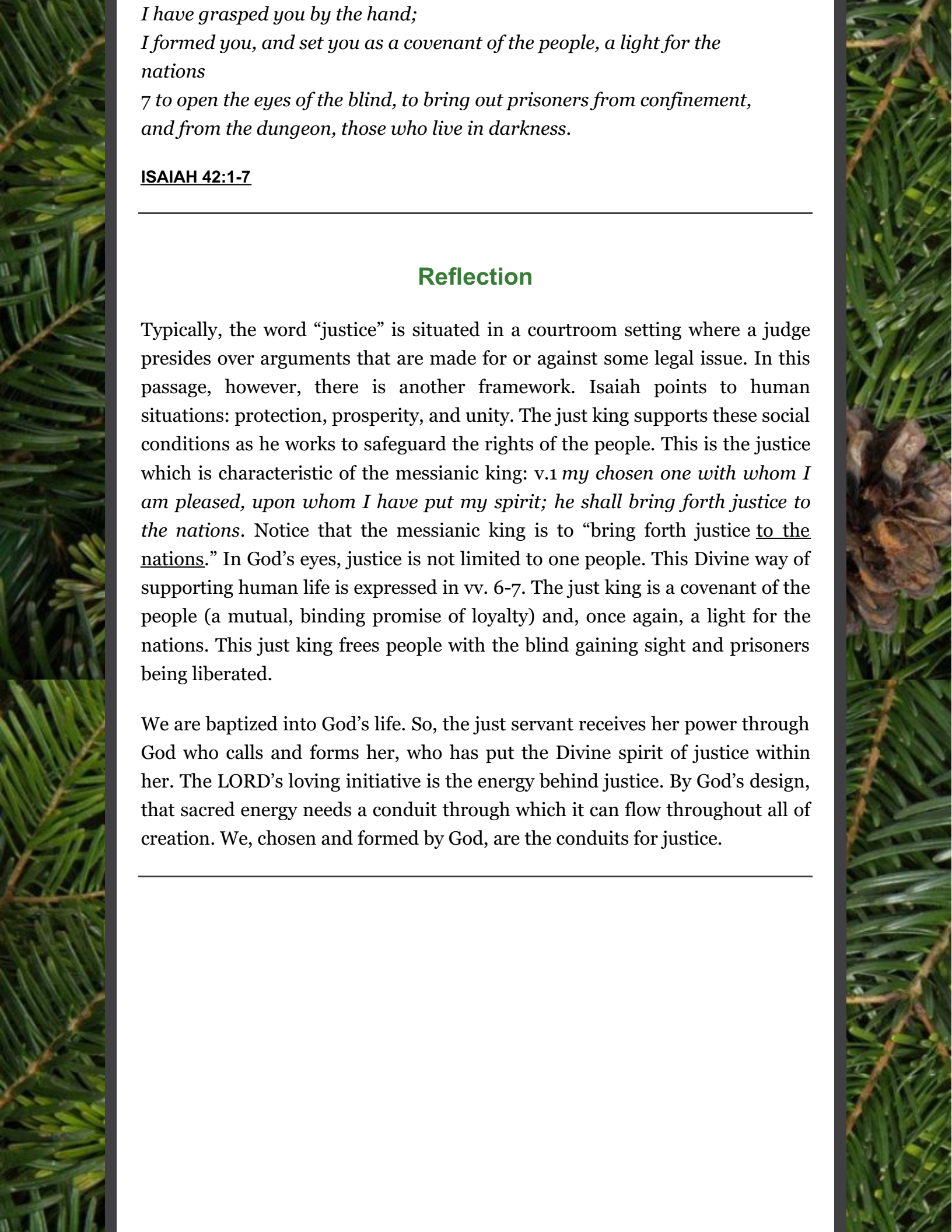
BRINGING FORTH JUSTICE

The Baptism of the Lord

By Sister Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Today's Reading

- 1 *Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one with whom I am pleased,
upon whom I have put my spirit;
he shall bring forth justice to the nations,*
- 2 *Not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street.*
- 3 *A bruised reed he shall not break,
and a smoldering wick he shall not quench,*
- 4 *Until he establishes justice on the earth;
the coastlands will wait for his teaching.*
- 5 *Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spreads out the earth with its crops,
who gives breath to its people
and spirit to those who walk on it:*
- 6 *I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice,*



*I have grasped you by the hand;
I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the
nations
7 to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement,
and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.*

ISAIAH 42:1-7

Reflection

Typically, the word “justice” is situated in a courtroom setting where a judge presides over arguments that are made for or against some legal issue. In this passage, however, there is another framework. Isaiah points to human situations: protection, prosperity, and unity. The just king supports these social conditions as he works to safeguard the rights of the people. This is the justice which is characteristic of the messianic king: *v.1 my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations.* Notice that the messianic king is to “bring forth justice to the nations.” In God’s eyes, justice is not limited to one people. This Divine way of supporting human life is expressed in vv. 6-7. The just king is a covenant of the people (a mutual, binding promise of loyalty) and, once again, a light for the nations. This just king frees people with the blind gaining sight and prisoners being liberated.

We are baptized into God’s life. So, the just servant receives her power through God who calls and forms her, who has put the Divine spirit of justice within her. The LORD’s loving initiative is the energy behind justice. By God’s design, that sacred energy needs a conduit through which it can flow throughout all of creation. We, chosen and formed by God, are the conduits for justice.



For Pondering

- Am I open enough for the LORD's energy of justice to flow out of me in my thoughts, words and actions?
 - Are people set free or able to see more clearly because of me?
-

For Prayer

LORD, I am your servant, your chosen one who pleases you. You have given me your spirit so that the world may experience your justice through me. Thank you for trusting me to work with you and your other servants. Through us may all experience your justice throughout their lives. Amen.

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