

December 15, 2025



THE ANOINTED OF GOD

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

From the Prophet Isaiah

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.”*

ISAIAH 61:1

Reflection

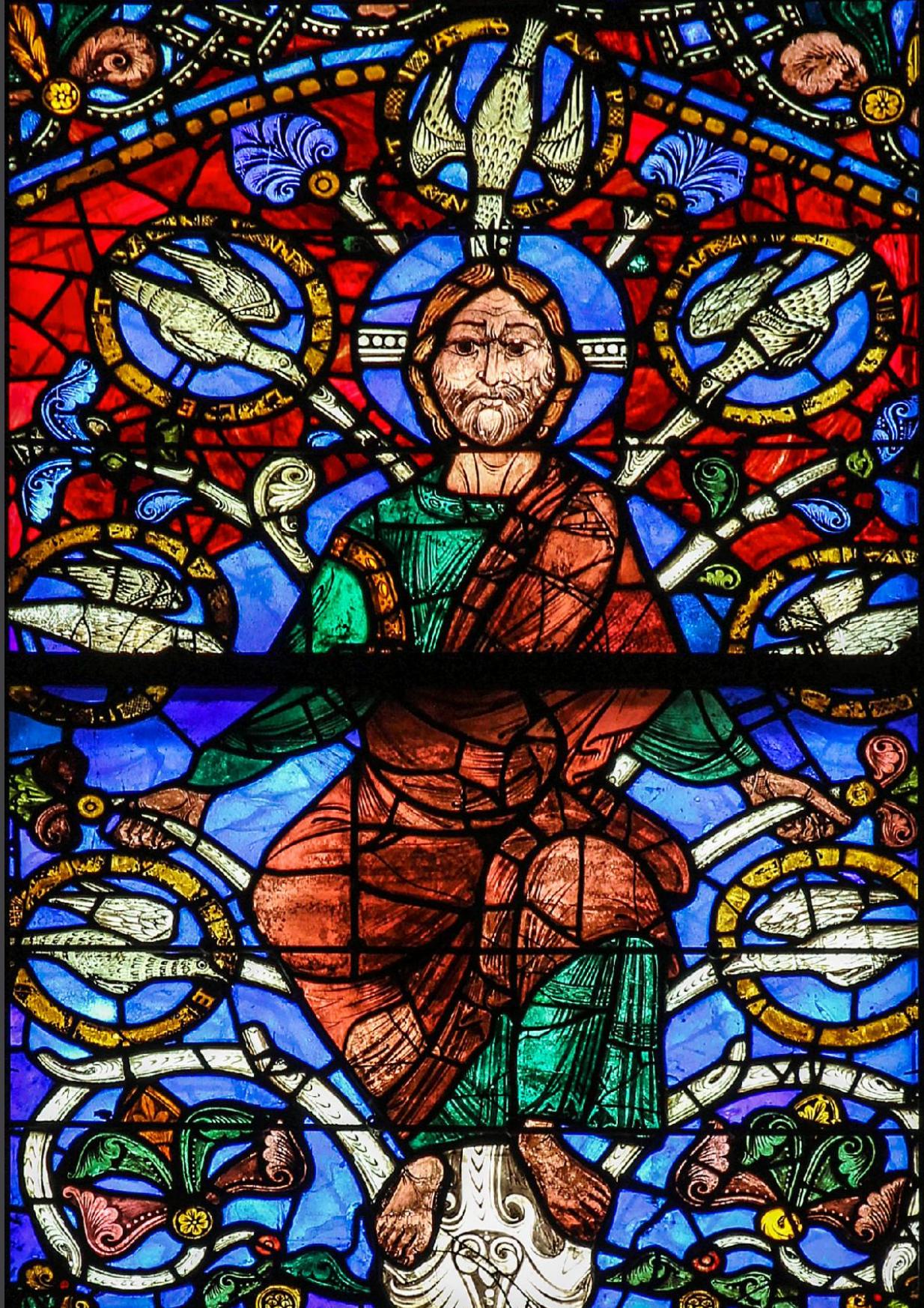
I was inspired by the Scripture above, for it reflects the whole story of God's presence among us. This quote from Isaiah was cited by Jesus of himself as a realization of the presence of the Spirit in Jesus' self-understanding. The Good News causes us to rejoice in the Lord. It is the third week of Advent; the time of God's coming among us is near.

The Spirit of the Lord has been in the world throughout salvation history. Long before Jesus, God was present to his people, leading them out of slavery, inviting them to a special relationship with God and God with them. God prefers to work with and through people. God's chosen messengers challenged the people to turn toward God's ways and alerted the people that they are always being drawn toward relationship with God. As is most common, some people followed, some wandered aimlessly, others took cruel advantage of the people. And God kept loving and inviting us.

Jesus, too, experienced "the Spirit of the Lord upon him" as he became one of us to dwell among us and reflect God's great love, abiding presence, and desire for deeper relationship with humankind. A human Jesus, united in Spirit with his Father, came among us down the ages. The Holy One continues to come among us.

This third week of Advent invites us to rejoice as we are aware of God's nearness and recount the lavish, inclusive love of God for us. Union with God and unity among all people continue to be God's ultimate desire.

God is forever running after us, to love us into the fullness of life, and to save us from ourselves. God is always present and coming at the same time.



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For Prayer

Gracious God,

*we rejoice in your Spirit's abiding presence falling upon us
to be the joyful, loving, and compassionate presence
pointing the way home to God's great love, mercy and forgiveness.
Help us live in the full knowing that God's abiding presence is very near,
closer than we might think.*

Amen.

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