

# TRINITY NEWS

## Advent III “A sound of sheer silence” – I Kings 19:11-12

Jesus connected the invisible world with the chattering of the visible world. The means he left us to connect both worlds are summed up in the Jewish rabbinic formula: **“In seeking wisdom, the first step is silence, the second listening, the third remembering, the fourth practising, and the fifth teaching others”** - Rabbi Shlomo Gabirol.

The experience of Elijah at Mt. Horeb is foretold. God would not be in an earthquake that rocked the cave and its mountain house, not in a mighty wind that preceded it, or in the blistering fire that followed it, but in a ‘sound of sheer silence’, a voice that can only be heard when all else is still.

**The Hebrew reads literally, “a soft gentle rustling” like the hem of God’s robe swirling around Isaiah of Jerusalem when he was called by God in the Temple.**

**It is a soft gentle rustling like the woman with a haemorrhage ruffling the hem of Jesus’ robe seeking the touch of God to heal her in the soft material that brushed against her hands.**

It comes unheralded into our hearts when they are crushed. It enfolds bread and wine and conveys the silent life in visible form.

It drives our breath and the velocity of the blood that hurtles through our body to sustain our life.

It pours love into our hearts when it is given as the Holy Spirit. Without Jesus I would not know its silent witness to everything. His imprint is on the Holy Spirit. He shows me that it is a Spirit of love. It picks up the pieces of our lives and gathers them into fresh hope like a persistent gentle breeze swirling in a forest on a spring morning building little towers of leaves.

Jesus knew the silent world. He came from it and returned to it. God is silence. The words that come from God nestle into our consciousness bearing the multilayered wisdom of endless reflection. It is like taking a word and turning it over forever in our hands and always finding something new in it.

Jesus taught us that the constant flow of the insights of God can be absorbed in a tiny seed and nurture it into a mustard bush to give shelter for the birds of the air. It is also our shelter.

The words of Christ once came to assure John the baptiser on the lips of one of John's disciples. They were words from Isaiah 35 that spoke of healing and blessing and new life. He was in a sordid prison awaiting an inevitable execution. He died with those words ringing in his ears. We need vision to inspire our hopes to refresh our true dreams. They reflect not only our own wishes but the designs of that gentle spirit that comes gently rustling in the wind, a sound of sheer silence.

Bishop Arthur Jones

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## **THIS WEEK:**

**Dec. 19 (Thursday).**

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel

## **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**

OT: Isaiah 7:10-17; Psalm 24:1-7; Epistle: Romans 1:1-7;

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

## **GOODIES SOUGHT.**

A sign-up paper is on the board by the Parish Office for those who wish to bring some cookies, cakes, chips, etc. to be shared after the Midnight service on the 24th. Christmas punch will be served.