

# Trinity News

## Advent II Yeshua at Nazareth, at Home in a Village in Palestine

The following is a reflective interpretation, not literal Scripture, though drawn at base from Scripture. There was once a little boy who lived in a village called Nazareth in Galilee, Palestine. He wondered why his mother looked at him with wonder every morning as he ate a sparse breakfast. She wore a grey robe with white trim and she had luminous eyes and swarthy skin and love in her face. She held his hand when she took him out amongst the village children and to the Yeshiva School to learn about the Torah, the key Scriptures of Israel. She sat and looked at him in the evening in the light of the oil lamps. When he was asleep at night he would suddenly wake up afraid in the dark. She would hear his murmurings, and then she padded softly across the floor, silhouetted by the oil lamp that she was carried by its handle. He would be comforted by her silhouette and the fears would begin to subside. Then she would do something very comforting, she would reach out and touch him, and that gentle caress stilled his fluttering heart. One day years later she would place her hand on his body as he was carried inert from the Cross on the way to be buried. She used to sit with him sometimes and hold his hand and talk to him about the stories of Israel. Yeshua saw that she loved Joseph, as he felt their warmth for each other travel across the room. Yeshua was perceptive about feelings from the beginning. He looked for Yosif to come into the house at night from his work. He could see the strength in his face and feel the warmth of his embrace. Yosif too would tell Yeshua the stories of their people and their hopes and dreams of a Messiah. Joseph would think about his own dreams and their message about this different child. He saw in his eyes the promise of a better tomorrow for his people. The boy would grow up into a young man who would see all the things that happened in his village and he would go to the synagogue with his mother and Joseph. He would listen to the Scriptures and realize that in them there was something about him, without knowing why he knew this in his heart.

These are just some reflections, but in a way they are about all of us. We remember the first love that was given to us and we remember the first person who touched us, not in our minds but in our feelings which stand prior to our reasoning and outlast them. One day this boy would become a man and he would feel a tug inside him to go and see his kinsman John the Baptizer because he had heard of him and he knew that their lives were bound together. These reflections are just to remind us of the story of this boy, but they are also part of a story that is the most repeated in humanity. Let us remember the links we have with the child at Nazareth and the adult who walked in a linen robe through the fields of Galilee and drew people to him like a magnet. He only drew those in the end who would hear his voice and love him, and for us also this is our task and our journey. We are a pilgrim people and a Resurrection people in a Good Friday world. What happened to him in some way happens to all of us because he is the universal pilgrim and we are linked to him. I pray that this Advent as we see the candles lit we will remember the oil lamp in his home and the boy in the bed who was afraid at times, and the mother who comforted him and Joseph who also loved him. Let us comfort our children and our grandchildren and strengthen them in our sometimes Good Friday World. Let us work and pray for a better world in which the Prince of Peace might yet be able to appear amongst us again in the faces of his people and in the hearts of all those who dream about peace.

**Bishop Arthur Jones**

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**THIS WEEK:**

**Wednesday.**

- Bible Study, 10am.
- Group Discussion, 7:30pm, Parish office

**Thursday.**

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:**

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Psalm 85;  
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18



**TO PLAN:**

**Advent Lessons & Carols,  
December 20,  
7:00pm.**

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