



Fourth Week of Advent: Time to Come Apart

During this holy season, when our focus is on the coming of the Messiah, we are invited anew to stop, to break the speed and busyness of our day, so that we can allow our hearts to become present to the deeper reality of God's Providence and presence in every moment of our lives.

Recently, at a time of community prayer, the following verses spoke to me. I don't know the author, but I heard the call of God to "come apart." I offer the same invitation to you!

*Come, O Gift of heaven's harmony, and attune my third ear,
the ear of my heart,
so that I may hear,
just as Mary, faithful woman of Israel, heard....*

*Show to me, also your highly favored child,
how to guard my heart from noise and hurry's whirl,
so that I might hear your voice calling my heart to create an empty space
that might be pregnant with heaven's fire.*

*Quiet me within; clothe my body in peacefulness,
so that your Word once again may take flesh,
this time, within me, as once it did in holy Mary,
long Advent days ago.*

May we, with Mary, say a simple "yes" to our God!

May we, with Mary, be patient and silent, allowing God's life to gestate in us!

May we, with Mary, welcome the Spirit of God who brings Jesus to birth in us!

~ Mary Francis Fletcher, CDP, Provincial