
DAYBREAKING NEWS

Reflection by Amy Notbohm

The Third Week in Advent

All by myself....don't wanna be all by myself...

John Pavlovitz, in Week 3 (Wednesday) of LOW: An honest advent devotional, reminds us that there was no room at the inn for the holy family. He goes on to discuss the challenge of when we seek belonging, but are left on the outside.

I wonder though, about the relationship between solitude and isolation. Margery Kempe and Julian of Norwich were 15th century women of faith at odds with the Medieval male-dominated Catholic church infrastructure. Despite or perhaps because of the inability to fully enter into the inner sanctum of the Church fathers, each woman found her own path of vocation centered on theology of God the Mother.

Julian of Norwich found a home in the local church. She lived as an anchoress in solitude in a small room adjacent to the church of Norwich. She prayed for and with the town's people in the midst of the 100 years' war and the plague, where two-thirds of the people of her town were killed by one or the other tragedy. Margery Kemp took her solitary faith on the road. She was the mother of fourteen in an abusive marriage. As she found her own road, she ran a brewery and a grain mill. When those endeavors didn't work out, she left her husband and travelled alone as a pilgrim to Jerusalem and beyond. When she found herself on trial for heresy, she told ribald stories to the Archbishop of York.

Julian was 30-some years Margery's senior and a mentor. They had similar understandings of the maternal nature of God's love and found that the "inn" of the church did not have room inside for them. Julian found her home adjacent to the church in a life of prayer and contemplation, while Margery found her home on the road. It wasn't an easy path for her. In Margery's autobiography, she shares her struggles with self-doubt and how to make sense of her mystical experiences, but through these struggles, she helped share a new vision for how to understand the divine.

I wonder if there are times that we may hear the innkeeper telling us there is no room, but that is because the door to the barn is where our paths are supposed to lead. When we are in solitude, outside the norm, beside the institution or the regularity of life, we

find our true selves. Do we find that we are stronger than we thought, smarter than we were told, more creative than we believe? Being left outside (or trapped inside) can be difficult, but just maybe like Julian and Margery that is where we find God. *Amy*

Community Prayers

• We continue to pray for Sarah Burke, Paula Carmosino, Gail Everts, Lorraine Meno, Lee Smith and her sister & brother-in-law, Sandra & Lawrence, and Ruth Wymer. If you have prayers or concerns please let Pastor Tom, Amy Notbohm or the church office know.

Giving

Thank you for your continued support for the work and ministry of Aldersgate UMC; 3530 North 32nd Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85018-5609.

Borderlands P.O.W.W.O.W. on December 19th has been cancelled.

Three upcoming Special Services:

Sunday, December 20, Blue Christmas on-line Service begins at 4:00 p.m.



Thursday, December 24, Family on-line Christmas Eve Service begins at 5:00 p.m.



Thursday, December 24, on-line Christmas Eve Service begins at 7:00 p.m.

Dayspring website - www.dayspring-umc.org



*** Please note a correction to December birthdate for Hailey Archibald, the actual day is December 30th.***

Rev. Tom Kiracofe
Pastor

Martha Stowe
Administrator

