

Advent Devotions 2022

Week Four

Singing about a Revolution



Singing Mary's song on this last Sunday of Advent, we look backward with her at all that God has already done, all the places where God has already revealed Godself, and anticipate all that God will soon accomplish. In this Advent season, we have been dwelling with Mary, Elizabeth, and Hannah as we journey toward the new way God will work in this world. Our worship, Bible studies, and other fellowship experiences have been full of reminders that creation is still groaning in labor pains. But at the end of this week, our Christian timekeeping will once again bring us into the story of the time when "she who is in labor has brought forth," bringing the Savior of the world to life. Mary offers us an anchor: a witness to what God has already done, and can therefore be depended upon to do.

Liturgical musician Rory Cooney wrote "The Canticle of the Turning," a song based upon Mary's Magnificat. In it he channels his homeland's spirit into the song, using the tune of an Irish traditional song ("The Star of the County Down") as the framework for his paraphrase of Mary's song.

The tune begs to be sung at a quick tempo, even though the words come thick and fast: *tyrants torn from their thrones, deliverance from the conqueror's crushing grasp, the crushing of the spear and rod, the burning fires of justice*. The effortless speed and lyrical density of the song remind us that the very choice to live in Advent hope is an act of brinkmanship that rivals Mary's own. In this last week of the season, there is no better time to enjoy the adrenaline rush of irrational faith, and Elizabeth's blessing for Mary becomes ours too: "Blessed is she who believed there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." Ready or not, the Son of Mary is coming.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N9vp6qBw8F4>