

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

- Quiet reflection -

Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

For a child is born to us, an heir given to us;
upon whose shoulders dominion will rest.

This One shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Protector, Prince of Peace.

This dominion, and this peace, will grow without end,
with David's throne and realm sustained with justice and fairness,
now and forever.

The zeal of YAHWEH Omnipotent will do this!



Carol (based on Psalm 96)

Lesson

Madeleine L'Engle

And so I rhyme with no apology
during this time of eschatology:
Judgment and warning come like thunder.
But now is the hour when I remember
an infant's power on a cold December.
Midnight is dawning and the birth of wonder.

Carol

"Her Song Spins a Blackness"

Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus
that all the world should be registered.
This was the first registration and was taken
while Quirinius was governor of Syria.
All went to their own towns to be registered.
Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea,
to the city of David called Bethlehem,
because he was descended from the house and family of David.
He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged
and who was expecting a child.
While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.
And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth,
and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

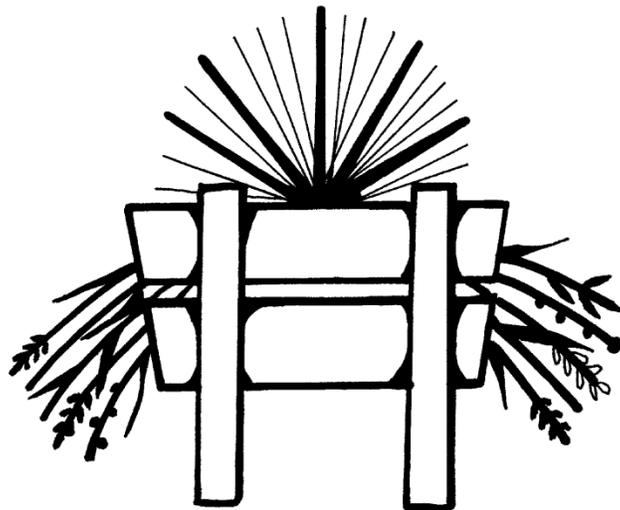
Carol

"Jesus Comes"

Lesson

Oscar Romero

No one can celebrate a genuine Christmas
without being truly poor.
The self-sufficient, the proud,
those who, because they have everything,
look down on others,
those who have no need even of God –
for them there will be no Christmas.
Only the poor, the hungry,
those who need someone to come on their behalf,
will have that someone.
That someone is God.
Emmanuel. God-with-us.
Without poverty of spirit
there can be no abundance of God.



Carol

“Join the Song of Praise and Protest”

Lesson

Luke 2:8-14
Spark Story Bible pages 212-217

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,
keeping watch over their flock by night.
Then an angel of the Lord stood before them,
and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.
But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid;
for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is the Messiah, the Lord.
This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,
praising God and saying,
“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace!”

Carol

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

#289

Lesson

Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven,
the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem
and see this thing that has taken place, which God has made known to us.”
So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph,
and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;
and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.
But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.
The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God
for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.