



The Song of the Angels

Great exuberance for life

An address for the Cosmic Mass on the 4th Sunday in Advent
23rd December 2007 ● Rev Max

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

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government will be upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called
"Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom,
to establish it, and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and for evermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

Luke 2: 8-14

The lifting of the human spirit,
The enlarging of our borders,
Freedom from the limitations of our present minds,
The recovery of relationship with the whole of the universe,
These things are what real life is about.

I have an inkling that you can identify with that.
I know you want the lifting of the human spirit.
You have experienced the winter of discontent
and are now taking steps to enlarge your being.

You are *not* satisfied with the views of life that you have previously held.
You think that there is more to life than what you already know about.

*This is what my address is about this morning.
It is about the human spirit.
It is about that undying spirit that lies within each one of you,
the spirit that has always been there.*

This is the spirit that constantly works to lift you into another realm.
It relates to the whole universe.
It knows who you are, and why you are here
and reminds you to continue on against all odds.
It is not satisfied until all of your assigned work has been accomplished.

The Song of the Angels

The central focus for my address is the song of the angels.
This song expresses great exuberance for life.

*Let me read again the song that is being taken in by the shepherds
as they look after their sheep:*

*Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!*

This song changed the lives of those shepherds,
and not only the shepherds.
It has given inspiration to many lives since.
It speaks to you today.

The few words of this song contain the secrets of the universe,
the wondrous nature of life,
things that cannot be adequately expressed with words.

Today let us dwell on three facets of the song.

- 1. First of all the angels carry us into the presence of the divine.
They lift us out of our limited view of life
into a reality that fills our souls with overflowing joy.*

There is so much that has been hidden from us for a long period of time.
For such a long time we have lived in forgetfulness
of the conversations we once enjoyed with divine beings.

We have forgotten that we once lived in harmony with the universe.
There is no doubt that we have lived in the darkness of ignorance.

But let us be clear that this does not need to be the case today.
*Now we are living in a new time.
Now it is possible for us to open our hearts again
to the one who gave us life.*

Now in December 2007 we can receive the spirit of the Angels.
We can receive that spirit fresh and new.
We can receive it and experience it as we have never experienced it before.

Our minds may inform us that this is all a fantasy,
It is a delusion,
It is an infantile wish,
Unreal,
A poor basis for living in the modern world.

Like Karl Marx
We can conclude that it is a opiate for the masses,
And therefore something to be discarded.

Yet your heart is capable of sifting out what is true and what is not true.
Your heart is able to hear the voice of the angels,
And is capable of receiving the joyful song.

*Glory to God in the highest
Glory!*

Glory to God!

As the ancient writer of the Psalms used to sing:

*The heaven's are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
And night to night declares knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words;
Their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.*

A divine being has entered our world!
God is not removed from us!

God loves you!
God loves Luke!
God Loves Rainer!
God loves Elisabeth!
God loves David!
God loves Nadine!

2. *A second important feature of the song is that the angels sing of peace on earth.
They celebrate the fact that there is now a presence on this earth
that reconciles,
that harmonises the conflicting powers,
that draws us together.*

The Prince of Peace has been living amongst us.
He has continued his work on this earth for some time
and is at work now.

He lives in the hearts of all who love him.
His Spirit empowers us.

When you suffer from the darkness of despair
you do well to call on his name.
When torn by doubt
it is good to call on his name.

Every individual who recognizes the Prince of Peace,
and who has identified themselves with him,
exudes a life-giving spirit
and therefore enlivens their surroundings.

3. A third feature of the song of the angels is that it reveals God's pleasure in human beings.

God is pleased with you.
And he is giving to you.
He is giving his only son.

He is not abandoning you.

As the ancient prophet spoke:

*To us a child is born
to us a son is given*

Our God gives, and gives and continues to give.
His love knows no bounds.

His love is real.

It is not there to be understood.
It is there to be received,
Taken into the inmost depths of our hearts.

This is the work that stands before us this Christmas,
to stand in the presence of the glory of God,
to perceive his glorious being,
and to be filled with wonder, love and praise.

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The Melbourne Centre
email: melbournecentre@ica.org.au
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