

peace be with you

# weekly devotional

from the desk of Rev. Marta Wheeler

SAINT PAUL BENSON

**December 16, 2021**

## INSPIRING LUMINARIA

With each votive candle that is lit  
The light within becomes brighter  
Seen in faces glowing in the darkness.

In the glow of the luminaria  
I cannot help but be grateful for  
the twelve months since we last lit up the night.

One little votive candle would barely  
have been visible on its own  
but illumines brightly when multiplied.

The lit pathways bring to mind the angels  
singing their glorias to shepherds  
directing them to the manger scene.

Along the way, do you think they were offered  
cups of creamy hot cocoa and fancy  
fancy coffees topped with whipped cream?

By the glow of simple candles or by  
the light of each sparkling star  
the love of Christ brilliantly shines.

## **Luke 1:39-45**

New Revised Standard Version

In those days Mary set out and went with haste  
to a Judean town in the hill country, where she  
entered the house of Zechariah and greeted  
Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child  
leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled  
with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud  
cry, "*Blessed are you among women, and  
blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has  
this happened to me, that the mother of my  
Lord comes to me?*"

*For as soon as I heard the sound of your  
greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.*

*And blessed is she who believed that there  
would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to  
her by the Lord."*

## **Amazed in God's Presence**

Mary and Elizabeth give us important examples  
of how to be aware of the ways God is working in  
our lives, even when confusion could be  
overtaking us.

*Continued*

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## **Amazed in God's Presence**

This past Monday, I stood in amazement at the wonders of our Creator! How many different types of brushes were used in painting the sky that day? It was sunny and the canvas was azure. White was applied in wide feathered streaks from the east and the west, then from the north and the south. Topping off the show was a bright light towards the center, and it was all reflected in the water. It was doubly grand to see the beauty all in one view!

Oh, that we might look at the whole of life in that way, amazing and wonderfully painted by the hand of God with amazing sweeps and divine love intimately touching our lives. In those moments we release our worries and feel renewed.

*God's love and peace to you as we journey together in this Advent Season.*

*Marta*

Rev. Marta Wheeler