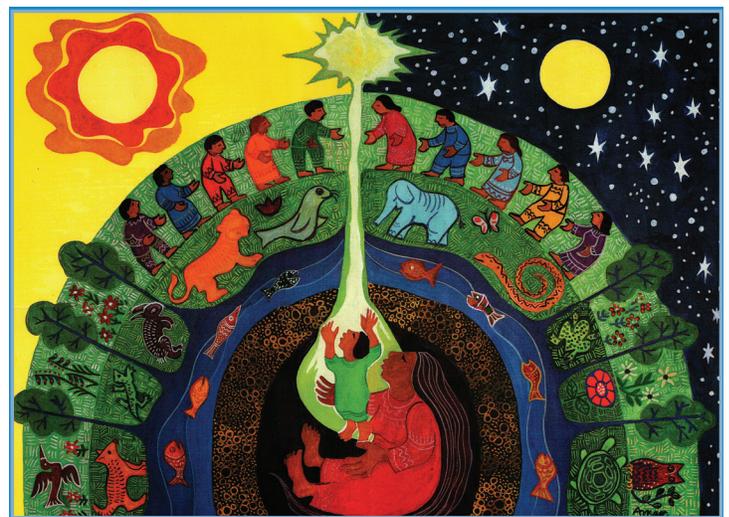

About Advent, Christmas, and After the Epiphany 2022-23

The prophet Isaiah leads us into the Season of Advent, offering visions of a world of peace and harmony, and a child leading the way forward. We will sing a song of joy and justice with Mary, hear the promise of a child from Joseph's point of view, and take courage from Joseph's example of faithful living in troubled times.

The blue/purple colour of Advent swirls into the white/gold of Christmas, as the 12 days of Christmas begin with a hymn of praise. The Season of Christmas concludes with the Magi entering the story and beckoning us to embrace the hope in the gift of a child.

The Season after the Epiphany begins and ends in mystical encounters and words of affirmation: "You are my beloved." The call of Isaiah and the call of disciples have us reflect on our own call, decision points, and clarifying light. We spend three weeks savouring a collection of Jesus' sayings presented as the Sermon on the Mount. The Beatitudes bend our understanding of the world around us and turn our world view upside down as we glimpse a re-imagined realm; we are reminded that we are salt and light in a world in need, and taken into the heart of the law and the gospel.

What do these visions mean for us today, and how might we live into them? May it be so.



Earth Has Hope, by Ansgar Holmberg, CSJ.
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