

# *On a Wing and a Prayer*

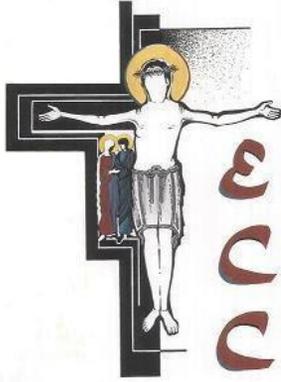
January 2018

Guardian Angels Catholic Community – Just. Faithful. Catholic.

[www.guardianangelscatholiccommunity.org](http://www.guardianangelscatholiccommunity.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/GuardianAngelsCatholicCommunity>

Join us for Mass every Sunday at 9AM and every Wednesday at 7AM



*THE ECUMENICAL CATHOLIC COMMUNION -- A Wonderful Way of Being Catholic!*

<http://www.ecumenical-catholic-communication.org/>



Epiphany by Janet McKenzie



## **Benedicere**

### *A New Year's Day blessing*

*by Ken Sehested*

May your home always be too  
small to hold all your friends.

May your heart remain ever supple,  
fearless in the face of threat,  
jubilant in the grip of grace.

May your hands remain open,  
caressing, never clenched,  
save to pound the doors  
of all who barter justice  
to the highest bidder.

May your heroes be earthy,  
dusty-shoed and rumpled,  
hallowed but unhaloed,  
guiding you through seasons  
of tremor and travail, apprenticed  
to the godly art of giggling  
amid haggard news and  
portentous circumstance.

May your hankering be  
in rhythm with heaven's,  
whose covenant vows a dusty  
intersection with our own:  
when creation's hope and history rhyme.

May hosannas lilt from your lungs:  
God is not done;  
God is not yet done.

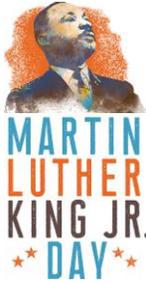
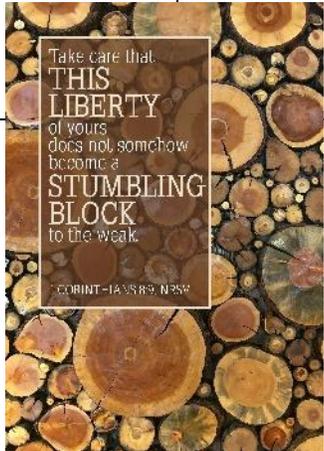
All flesh, I am told, will behold;  
will surely behold.

©Ken Sehested @ prayerandpolitiks.org. New Year's Day 2005. A new year's blessing honoring the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of a friend (and his new titanium hip!)—an expert in the art of blessing—celebrated during a winter hike on the Appalachian Trail. The first stanza of this poem, which inspired the composition, is a traditional Irish blessing. The line when hope and history rhyme is taken from a Seamus Heaney poem entitled "On the far side of revenge." Benedicere, a Latin word, means "to bless."

For a video production of this poem, see this site: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pmfsc7h-70s>

# Guardian Angels Calendar January 2018



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>31</p> <p><b>FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY</b> <b>MASS 9AM</b> PRESIDER: SUE DIALOGUE HOMILY</p> 	<p><b>JANUARY 1</b></p> <p><b>MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD</b></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p><b>MASS 7AM</b></p> <p>M I D W E E K M A S S</p> 	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> 	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p> <p><b>EPIPHANY</b> <b>MASS 9AM</b></p> <p>PRESIDER/PREACHER: SUE</p> <p>10AM LEARNING COMMUNITY: Unpack the invisible backpack of white privilege</p>	<p>8</p> <p>TCCC BOARD MEETING 7PM</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p><b>MASS 7AM</b></p> <p>7PM @ JOAN'S HOUSE DISCUSSION OF <b>NO INNOCENT BYSTANDERS</b></p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p><b>HUMANE BORDERS</b></p>
<p>14</p> <p><b>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</b> <b>MASS 9AM</b></p> <p>PRESIDER/PREACHER: ELAINE</p> <p>LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING AFTER MASS TODAY</p>  <p>PAZ DE CRISTO 4P - 7P</p>	<p>15</p> 	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p><b>MASS 7AM</b></p>	<p>18</p> <p>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, <i>January 18-25, 2018</i></p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <p><b>3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</b> <b>MASS 9AM</b></p> <p>PRESIDER/PREACHER: SUE</p> <p>10AM - 2PM <b>WOMEN'S MARCH PHOENIX MARCH TO THE POLLS</b></p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p><b>POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS COUNT</b></p>	<p>24</p> <p><b>MASS 7AM</b></p> <p>7PM @ JOAN'S HOUSE DISCUSSION OF <b>NO INNOCENT BYSTANDERS</b></p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p><i>Spirituality of Retreat for These Times</i> 6:30PM -</p>	<p>27</p> <p><i>Spirituality of Retreat for These Times</i> - 4:30PM</p>
<p>28</p> <p><b>4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</b> <b>MASS 9AM</b></p> <p>PRESIDER: SUE</p> <p>PREACHERS: JOAN, B AND JOHN SHARE ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES AT THE CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL BLACK CHURCHES NATIONAL CONSULTATION</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p><b>FEBRUARY 1</b></p> <p>PASTOR ELAINE'S BIRTHDAY!</p>	<p>3</p> 	



“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”  
 –Martin Luther King Jr.



1 - Loretta Kissell and Nancy Tueffel

3 - Allison Ghan

23 - Bob Longoni

24 - Our Angel, Cheryl McPeek

29 - Patrick Washburne, Marie Renner's son's Birthday (another of our Angels in Heaven)

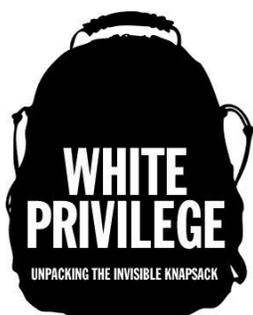
*February 1* – Pastor Elaine Groppenbacher



2 - Marie and George Renner 1/2/99

**Let Pastor Sue know if you'd like a directory of Fellow Angels! She can email it to you.**  
 send your birthdays/anniversaries/other remembrance days to Marie [mamare11@yahoo.com](mailto:mamare11@yahoo.com)

**A BIG thank-you to Becky for creating this important ministry and being our special date remember-er these past several years. Thank you for your love and beautiful words of prayer and blessing!**  
**And thanks for Marie for following in Becky's footsteps and taking on this vital ministry.**



## Community Christian Learning Community in January

Have you ever considered that your skin color might give you advantages over others in everyday things? Can you imagine being denied privileges *because* of your skin color? Were you taught to see racism as only individual acts of meanness? **On January 7<sup>th</sup> you are invited to come at 10 am for our next Learning Community when we will “unpack the invisible backpack of white privilege”, a concept developed by Peggy McIntosh. Childcare is available in the church nursery. Just let Pastor Sue know if you need childcare.**

The Little Pantry wants to thank you all for your generous donations! We received so much food, we have expanded our space (ok...we have a new shelving unit!), and so we have plenty of room for more food. The only items we are short of now are **granola bars, fruit bars, breakfast bars, etc. and fruit cups**. The TCAA (Tempe Community Action Agency) pantry donated lots of individual applesauce cups to us, but we don't have any more fruit. Thank you again, and you're welcome to tour the new, larger pantry any Sunday after Mass! Thank you, again.



The Public Service Announcement for Women4Women Tempe is underway, and we saw the first cut of it recently. We are all so excited to get it finished, and it's going to be really cool! Our website is up and running (thanks Mario) <http://women4womentempe.org/> but we want to add much more to it, and we will as time goes along. An Amazon Wish List for W4W has been generated, but Kay (who made it up) can't even find it. She's waiting for some techie to drop by her house to help! So...that's something to look forward to! Women4Women Tempe has also been asked to participate in the Point-In-Time Homeless Count on January 23, and we will be taking our hygiene bags with us. If anyone would like to join us, contact Kay and she will send you information. We have taken a little break over the holidays, but we are ready to hit 2018 with energy, commitment, and love. Happy New Years, our friends!!



**Click on the PayPal link below to donate directly to Women4Women Tempe**  
[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?token=iogF1gVI0hxElmtNkRtOnJWqh6nHxTFxKkboCJGbfexQ4CxLmY2bBZ4iEQ\\_bdEaTr08Kqm&country.x=US&locale.x=US](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?token=iogF1gVI0hxElmtNkRtOnJWqh6nHxTFxKkboCJGbfexQ4CxLmY2bBZ4iEQ_bdEaTr08Kqm&country.x=US&locale.x=US)

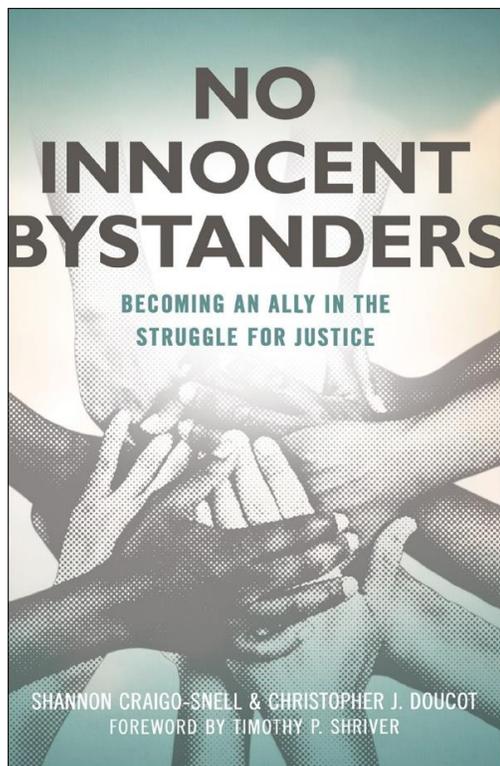
We also gladly accept donated feminine hygiene items. Go ahead and bring them to church with you or drop them off at the church office during open office hours.

Thank you for taking a tag off The Giving Tree and bringing back a gift to share. We helped our Little Church Pantry, Matthew's Crossing Food Bank, Phoenix Restoration Project, Furnishing Hope and other wonderful causes. Thank you!





January is all about preparing – preparing to be the Body of Christ to the world in the New Year. Please plan to read *No Innocent Bystanders*, join the discussion and treat yourself to a very timely Retreat. See below:



## No Innocent Bystanders

Becoming an Ally in the Struggle for Justice

*Shannon Craigo-Snell*

*Christopher J. Doucot*

<https://www.thethoughtfulchristian.com/Products/0664262627/no-innocent-bystanders.aspx>

The struggle for justice is ongoing. In answering the biblical call to act justly and love mercifully, can Christians cross lines of privilege to walk humbly not only with God but with their marginalized neighbors as well? *No Innocent Bystanders* looks at the role of allies in social justice movements and asks what works, what doesn't, and why. It explains what allies legitimately can accomplish, what they can't, and what kind of humility and clarity is required to tell the difference.

This book is a start-up guide for spiritual or religious people who are interested in working for social justice but don't know how or where to begin, drawing on the lessons of history, the framework of Christian ideas, and the insights of contemporary activists. It offers practical guidance on how to meaningfully and mindfully advocate alongside all who struggle for a more just society.

**We have set the dates/times for our discussion of *Innocent Bystanders*. We will meet at Joan's house on January 10 and 24 @ 7PM. Joan's address is: 1663 N Camellia St, Tempe AZ/773-680-7686**

*Spirituality of Activism: A Retreat for These Times* is being offered Friday, Jan. 26, 6PM thru Saturday, Jan. 27, 4:30PM at St. Augustine's.

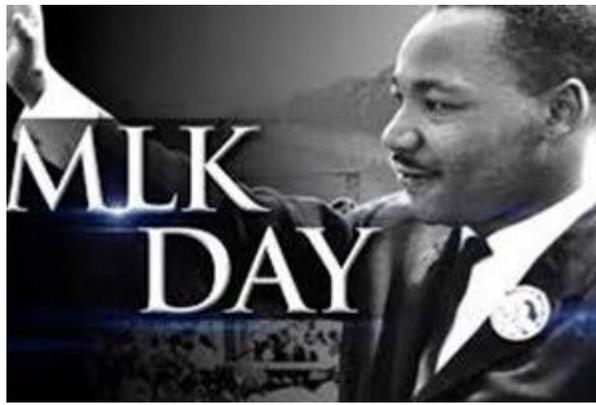
If you would love to go to the retreat but need help with the cost let Pastor Sue, Pastor Elaine, or Deacon Joan know you need a scholarship to attend. Click link to register. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-spirituality-of-activism-a-retreat-for-these-times-tickets-38712089903>



**Designed to inspire, this is a retreat for people of all (and no) spiritual backgrounds who desire to learn how our social action and activism can be sustained through spiritual practices like:**

- discerning an individual call to action;
- contemplation;
- non-violence;
- learning the skill of civil discourse with "the other;" and
- becoming comfortable with disagreement.

This is a nonpartisan event and is open to anyone regardless of spiritual and religious affiliation. Registration fee covers materials, vegetarian meals—including dinner on Friday night, continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday, and snacks—and hospitality throughout our retreat time together. This is a commuter retreat. Limited scholarships available; e-mail [anne@ofgoodcourage.org](mailto:anne@ofgoodcourage.org).



## **MLK March and Festival – Monday, Jan. 15 @ 9AM beginning at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church**

Join hundreds of community members and organizations for this historic walk!

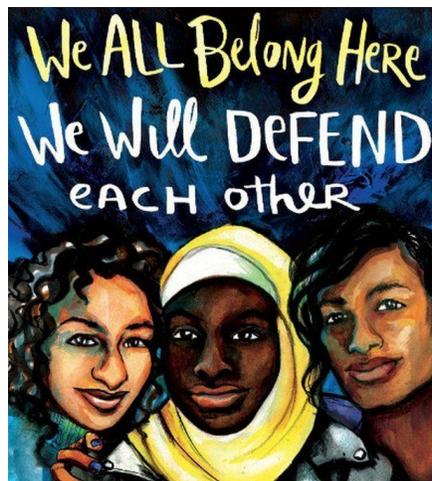
The 2018 MLK Celebration is a long-standing tradition of the Arizona Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee, with a series of events honoring the life and legacy of Dr. King. The week-long celebration includes the MLK Celebration Awards & Scholarship Breakfast, Candlelight Ceremony, Community Service Day, MLK Annual March & Festival and Youth Rally.

Join the City of Phoenix along with city leaders, schools, local businesses, churches and other community organizations, as we pay homage to this great Civil Rights leader. On Monday, January 15, 2018, the Arizona Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee will celebrate its 32nd year of promoting cultural diversity, awareness and unity as it seeks to involve all Arizonans in recognizing the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and the contributions he left to the world in his quest for equality for all people.

The MLK March will begin at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church on 15th Street /Jefferson Street and end at Hance Park. Assemble at 8:30 AM as March begins promptly at 9:00 AM



<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/womens-march-to-the-polls-phoenix-registration-41411980348>





Sister Antona Ebo's lifelong struggle against white supremacy, inside and outside the Catholic Church – Read this article in preparation for Joan's, B's and John's "preaching" on Sunday, January 28!

<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2017/11/22/sister-antona-ebos-lifelong-struggle-against-white-supremacy-inside-and-outside>



Our friend Rory Cooney is coming back into town in January. He will be at the Franciscan Renewal Center. Here are the links to the two events – January 18 (two choices that day) AND January 21 – a concert. January 18 is *A Better Kingdom, A Better God* links below:  
<https://frc.retreatportal.com/calendar/viewEvent.aspx?programcode=18AEC43810>  
<https://frc.retreatportal.com/calendar/viewEvent.aspx?programcode=18AEW40710>  
(these two are “conversations and dinner,” one begins at 4:30 and ends with dinner, and the other begins at 7 and is preceded by dinner at 6. At least that’s how I understood it when I signed on! - Rory)

The concert is:

<https://frc.retreatportal.com/calendar/viewEvent.aspx?programcode=18AEW40709>

Rory Cooney has been the director of liturgy and music ministries at St. Anne Catholic Community in Barrington, Illinois, since 1994. His published compositions span a career of songwriting that began nearly 35 years ago, and continues to the present, as he tries to write to the needs of the church and the communities in which he serves. Early compositions were published by Composers’ Forum for Catholic Worship and Resource Publications in the 1970’s, and his works are represented in *Gather* and *RitualSong*, as well as other publications. His recording career began in 1984, and virtually all of his recordings have been collaborations with his wife, Theresa Donohoo, and Gary Daigle. His most recent work with GIA has been the collection “Today” and Terry Donohoo’s “Family Resemblance.” Rory travels with Theresa and Gary Daigle giving concerts, days of renewal, missions, and workshops for parishes, dioceses, and organizations.



## TALES of SPIRITUAL DIRECTION – Part 1

by Deacon Joan



I entered spiritual direction without knowing I was starting “spiritual direction”. Circa 1993 I went away on retreat to learn “forgiveness” because my husband had recently told me he had fathered a child outside of our marriage. *Funny! – because it was way too soon to contemplate forgiving him...nonetheless...* While I was there I asked for spiritual direction. I needed some direct advice on how to deal with the destruction of my family. *Funny! - because they forgot to schedule me with a spiritual director!* As I was preparing to depart from the 4-day weekend, a woman came and asked if I still wanted spiritual direction. Yes, I replied. *I figured better late than never; now I’ll get the advice I need on*

*how to deal with my family situation.* A Cenacle Sister led me into her comfortable office and listened to my story. Then she said, “And where is God in this?” I was stunned. *I thought SHE was supposed to tell ME that!* I fumbled with an answer and then she said, “Sit with that question for a while in prayer; then come back and see me next week.”

That was the beginning of my spiritual direction under the guidance of Sister Mary Sharon Riley rc. She is still my Spiritual Director. I see her each time I visit Chicago; we spend time together each month via phone now that I live in Tempe. And...she is still asking me...where is God in this? I know for a fact that without the guidance of Mary Sharon, the past 25 years of my life would have been very different. Not that things would have significantly changed; but without my Spiritual Director helping me to discern God’s presence along the way, those changes would have been perceived differently.

By the way, in 1993 when I met Sister Mary Sharon, she was the Prioress and did not routinely take directees. *Obviously, God knew what God was doing.* Mary Sharon is now a Provincial in her order and travels all over the country and globe. She celebrated her Golden Jubilee as a Cenacle Sister a few years back.

Here’s one of her reflections:

<https://www.cenaclesisters.org/blog/?searchtype=tag&Tag=Existence>

(Stay Tuned for Part II when I share why Mary Sharon told me, “don’t come back here unless...”)



# National Council of Churches

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE USA



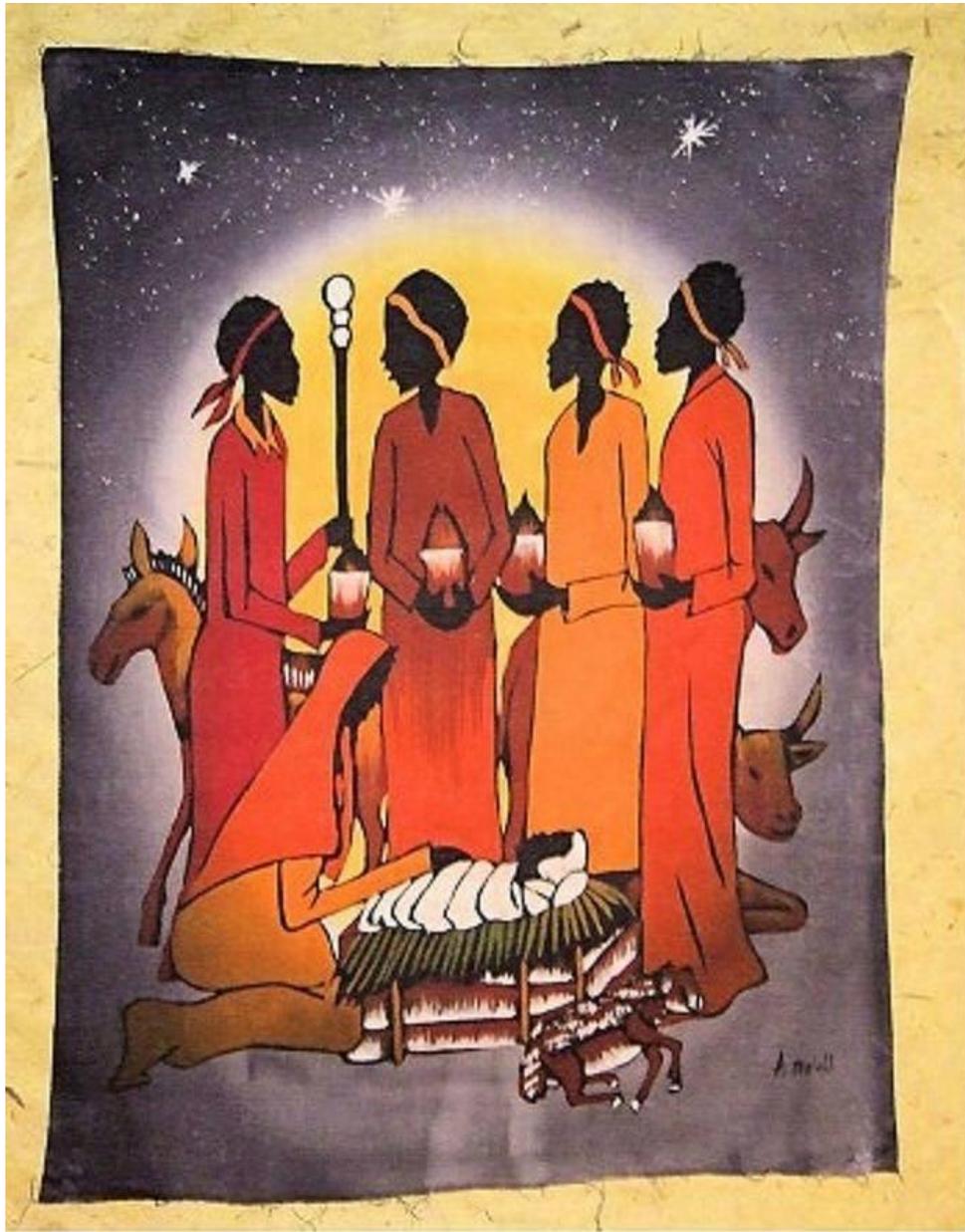
The National Council of Churches invites you to put on your calendar an event at the Lincoln Memorial and the National Mall on April 4, 2018. This event will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and serve as the launch of the National Council of Churches initiative to end racism and heal the nation. The Ecumenical Catholic Communion is a member of the National Council of Churches.

A movement is coming together to offer an alternative vision: a call for peace, respect, justice and love. As the deaths of Michael Brown, Sandra Bland, and dozens of other African Americans have brought awareness of the inequities of modern America, and as the demonstrations in Charlottesville and other cities have exposed the unhealed divisions among us, the time is right for a call to the soul of the nation to finally end racism and move toward healing.

People from across the nation will be with us in Washington, DC. We will connect with other commemorations planned in Memphis, TN, and other parts of the country.

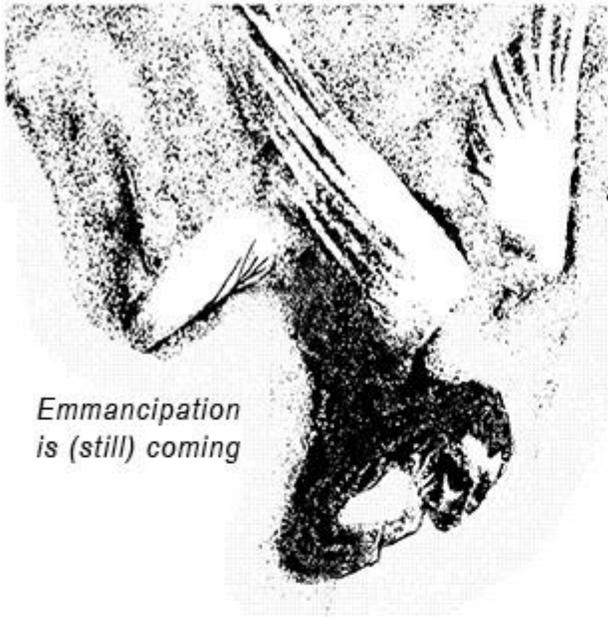
And now for something really different: An interview with Russell Brand, ""My personal feeling is the teachings of Christ are more relevant now than they've ever been."

<https://relevantmagazine.com/culture/the-second-coming-of-russell-brand/>



"I will light candles this Christmas.  
Candles of joy, despite all the sadness.  
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.  
Candles of courage where fear is ever present.  
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days.  
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens.  
Candles of love to inspire all of my living.  
Candles that will burn all the year long."

Howard Thurman



*Emmancipation  
is (still) coming*

# The quelling word



Written against the backdrop of New Year's Eve "Watch Night" services, 1862, when African Americans gathered to await news of US President Abraham Lincoln's promised "Emancipation Proclamation."

The angel breaks with Heaven's *hail!* from Joy's horizon on every weary heart, amid that unruly, precarious land beyond where cheery sentiment stalls and merry, bright roads end. Now, in terrain beyond all mapping, the adventure begins. No warranty reaches this far. Creature comforts here are few, risks are high, and danger surrounds. Here winded Breath calls to bended knee with promises of ecstasy and manna's fragile provision. Here water clefts rocks to slake desperate thirst. Chained, tamed hearts will never survive, deprived as they are of Mercy's solvent power to undo generations-old resentments, driven deep by fear's reflexive habit into armed entrenchments. The temptation is strong to abandon earth's rancor in favor of Heaven's rapture. Yet from Joy's horizon storms the quelling word: Heaven's abode is anchored in earth's tribulation. The proclamation has been rendered; incarnation, tendered; emancipation, though delayed, will not finally be hindered. Misery's tearful eye will glisten with elation; mournful cries shall rise in thankful jubilation. Despoiling death itself will yield to adoration. *Behold!* All things—from earth's bounded borders to Heaven's blissful shore—stand destined under Glory to be made new. The quelling word to a quarrelling world: *Come home. Come home.*

—Ken Sehested, inspired by Revelation 21:1-6a, lectionary text for New Year's Eve

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