

Monday, 30 November 2020 – Weekly Inspiration from Rev. Jason

At the beginning of his gospel, Luke writes, "I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus, so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught" (Luke 1:3b-4). Before getting at the heart of the matter (the person of Jesus in our history as an ambassador of God's kingdom), before even talking about Jesus' family and the one who would prepare the way before him, Luke begins by opening the reader - Theophilus, and us - to what was going to be offered: an accurate account, so that we can be certain of what we have been taught.

As we begin the season of Advent, as we light the first candle and begin to listen again for the angelic chorus calling us to the manger, we begin by allowing our own selves - our hearts, minds, and spirits - to be opened anew to the work of God's Spirit. Theologian Howard Thurman wrote his prayer to this end thus:

"Open unto me - light for my darkness.  
Open unto me - courage for my fear.  
Open unto me - hope for my despair.  
Open unto me - peace for my turmoil.  
Open unto me - joy for my sorrow.  
Open unto me - strength for my weakness.  
Open unto me - wisdom for my confusion.  
Open unto me - forgiveness for my sins.  
Open unto me - love for my hates.  
Open unto me - thy Self for my self.  
Lord, Lord, open unto me!"

May we also be opened in this Advent season, that the Christ-child, Jesus our Lord, Immanuel "God-with-Us" may bring light to our lives and our world, as well.

Prayer: Lord, open unto me! Amen.