



ADVENT II
12.4.2022

Preparing a Holy Space

Prelude – the Band

Orientation – Jim Hamilton

I look at the world
From awakening eyes in a black face—
And this is what I see:
This fenced-off narrow space
Assigned to me.

I look then at the silly walls
Through dark eyes in a dark face—
And this is what I know:

I look at the world – Langston Hughes

That all these walls oppression builds
Will have to go!

I look at my own body
With eyes no longer blind—
And I see that my own hands can make
The world that's in my mind.
Then let us hurry, comrades,
The road to find.

Meditation – the Band

Song – Wondering Where the Lions Are – Bruce Cockburn – the Band

learn and sing

Sun's up, uh huh, looks okay
The world survives into another day
And i'm thinking about eternity
Some kind of ecstasy got a hold on me.
I had another dream about lions at the door
They weren't half as frightening as they were before
But i'm thinking about eternity
Some kind of ecstasy got a hold on me.
Walls windows trees, waves coming through
You be in me and i'll be in you
Together in eternity
Some kind of ecstasy got a hold on me
Up among the firs where it smells so sweet
Or down in the valley where the river used to be
I got my mind on eternity
Some kind of ecstasy got a hold on me
And i'm wondering where the lions are...
I'm wondering where the lions are...
Huge orange flying boat rises off a lake,
Thousand-year-old petroglyphs doing a double take,
Pointing a finger at eternity
I'm sitting in the middle of this ecstasy
Young men marching, helmets shining in the sun,
Polished as precise like the brain behind the gun

(Should be!) they got me thinking about eternity
Some kind of ecstasy got a hold on me
And i'm wondering where the lions are...
I'm wondering where the lions are...
Freighters on the nod on the surface of the bay
One of these days we're going to sail away,
Going to sail into eternity
Some kind of ecstasy got a hold on me
And i'm wondering where the lions are...
I'm wondering where the lions are...

Welcome

Mr. Freckles & Kid's Breakout

God be in my head

God be in my words

God be in my heart

God be in my hands

God be in my whole self

Peace

Reading One – Three Excerpts from *Evicted* – Matthew Desmond

To me, ethnography is what you do when you try to understand people by allowing their lives to mold your own as fully and genuinely as possible. You do this by building rapport with the people you want to know better and following them over a long stretch of time, observing and experiencing what they do, working and playing alongside them, and recording as much action and interaction as you can until you begin to move like they move, talk like they talk, think like they think, and feel something like they feel. In this line of work, living “in the field” helps quite a lot. It’s the only way to have an immersive experience; and practically speaking, you never know when important things are going to happen. Renting a trailer allowed me to meet dozens of people, pick up on rumors, absorb tenants’ concerns and perspectives, and observe everyday life all hours of the day.

These days, there are sheriff squads whose full time job is to carry out eviction and foreclosure orders. There are moving companies specializing in evictions, their crews working all day, every weekday. There are hundreds of data-mining companies that sell landlords tenant screening reports listing past evictions and court filings. These days, housing courts swell, forcing commissioners to settle cases in hallways or makeshift offices crammed with old desks and broken file cabinets – and most tenants don’t even show up. Low-income families have grown used to the rumble of moving trucks, the early morning knocks at the door, the belongings lining the curb,.

Fewer and fewer families can afford a roof over their head. This is among the most urgent and pressing issues facing America today, and acknowledging the breadth and depth of the problem changes the way we look at poverty. For decades, we’ve focused mainly on jobs, public assistance, parenting, and mass incarceration. No one can deny the importance of these issues, but something fundamental is missing. We have failed to fully appreciate how deeply housing is implicated in the creation of poverty. Not everyone living in a distressed neighborhood is associated with gang members, parole officers, employers, social workers, or pastors. But nearly all of them have a landlord.

**(for) the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea**

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

**(for) the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea**

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;

but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

**(for) the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea**

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

**(for) the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea**

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

**(for) the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea**

Prayers of the People – Amy

Song – Now is the Cool of the Day – Jean Ritchie – the Band

song for you

My Lord, he said unto me

Do you like my garden so fair

You may live in this garden if you keep the grasses green

And I'll return in the cool of the day

Now is the cool of the day

Now is the cool of the day

Oh this earth is a garden, the garden of my Lord

And he walks in his garden

In the cool of the day

Then my Lord, he said unto me
Do you like my garden so pure
You may live in this garden, if you keep the waters clean
And I'll return in the cool of the day

Now is the cool of the day
Now is the cool of the day
Oh this earth is a garden, the garden of my Lord
And he walks in his garden
In the cool of the day

Then my Lord, he said unto me
Do you like my pastures so green
You may live in this garden if you will feed my sheep
And I'll return in the cool of the day

Now is the cool of the day
Now is the cool of the day
Oh this earth is a garden, the garden of my Lord
And he walks in his garden
In the cool of the day

Then my Lord, he said unto me
Do you like my garden so free
You may live in this garden if you'll keep the people free
And I'll return in the cool of the day

Reading Two – Matthew 3:1-12 – Vaughn

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Deep river, my home is over Jordan.
Deep river, Lord,
I want to cross over into campground.

Oh, don't you want to go to that gospel feast,
that promised land where all is peace?

Oh, deep river, Lord,
I want to cross over into campground.

A Discussion – Jim

Offering Sentence

“If you are free, you need to free somebody else. If you have some power, then your job is to empower somebody else.”

Toni Morrison

Song – Changes – David Bowie – the Band

Still don't know what I was waitin' for
And my time was runnin' wild
A million dead end streets and
Every time I thought I'd got it made
It seemed the taste was not so sweet
So I turned myself to face me
But I've never caught a glimpse
How the others must see the faker
I'm much too fast to take that test

Ch-ch-ch-ch-changes
Turn and face the strange
Ch-ch-changes
Don't want to be a richer man

Ch-ch-ch-ch-changes
Turn and face the strange
Ch-ch-changes
There's gonna have to be a different man
Time may change me
But I can't trace time

I watch the ripples change their size
But never leave the stream
Of warm impermanence
And so the days float through my eyes
But still the days seem the same
And these children that you spit on
As they try to change their worlds
Are immune to your consultations
They're quite aware of what they're goin' through

Ch-ch-ch-changes
Turn and face the strange
Ch-ch-changes
Don't tell them to grow up and out of it

Ch-ch-ch-changes
Turn and face the strange
Ch-ch-changes
Where's your shame?
You've left us up to our necks in it
Time may change me
But you can't trace time

Strange fascinations fascinate me
Ah, changes are taking
The pace I'm goin' through

Ch-ch-ch-changes
Turn and face the strange
Ch-ch-changes
Ooh, look out, you rock 'n' rollers

Ch-ch-ch-changes
Turn and face the strange
Ch-ch-changes
Pretty soon now you're gonna get older
Time may change me
But I can't trace time

I said that time may change me
But I can't trace time

Eucharist and Post Communion Prayer – Amy

All are welcome at the Eucharistic table. If you do not wish to partake, feel free to take this time for meditation and personal reflection.

Post Eucharistic Prayer and Blessing – Amy

Announcements and Action – Vaughn

Song – Peace Like a River– the Band

learn and sing

I've got peace like a river, | I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul. I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river, | I've got peace like a river in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain, | I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul. I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain, | I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.

I've got love like the ocean, | I've got love like the ocean,
I've got love like the ocean in my soul. I've got love like the ocean,
I've got love like the ocean, | I've got love like the ocean in my soul.

I've got peace like a river I've got joy like a fountain, I've got love like the ocean, In my soul.

Dismissal and Invitation – Amy