

MARY MAGDALENE GATHERING



DECEMBER 18, 2022

Let us take a few
moments to
silence our
minds, calm our
bodies and open
our hearts





WELCOME

OPENING DIALOGUE

SOLO: Matter gave birth to a passion that has no equal, which proceeded from something contrary to nature. Then there arises a disturbance in its whole body.

UNISON: That is why I said to you, Be of good courage, and if you are discouraged be encouraged in the presence of the different forms of nature.

SOLO: He who has ears to hear, let him hear. When the Blessed One had said this, He greeted them all saying, Peace be with you. Receive my peace unto yourselves.

UNISON: Beware that no one lead you astray saying Lo here or lo there! For the Son of Man is within you.

SOLO: Follow after Him!

UNISON: Those who seek Him will find Him.



GOSPEL
OF MARY

Blessed are you that
did not waver at the
sight of me.

For where the mind is,
there is the treasure.

Mary 5:9

Walking with Hildegard of Bingen to the stable

In her Christmas homilies the medieval Abbess Hildegard of Bingen invites us to translate the Epiphany story (when the three kings arrive at the manger, and mad King Herod fears the “newborn king” might get all the attention...(Matthew 2:1-12)) into the soul’s journey towards new life.

Without questioning the historic validity of the story Hildegard invites us here to read the text almost like a dream or fairytale, in order to unpack the rich symbolism it holds.

The three kings, says Hildegard (and I now translate freely and into modern language), symbolize the well-educated mind, filled with all sorts of worldly wisdom and knowledge.

But then a star in the East arises, just where the sun awakes, like a guide from beyond, pulling them on a journey towards their “heart’s knowledge.”

Walking with Hildegard of Bingen to the stable

Following the promise of this star led them away from all the cherished stars they held before, even away from their own stardom.

This star “which went before them in upright perception and wisdom,” led them to “God’s grace” swaddled in the clothes of an innocent child.

They found Divine gifts in this little child, gifts which would frighten rulers and threaten their worldly powers. Their heart’s knowledge enabled them to see the Divine gifts and to follow the star.

Then they found the “new king” , surprised by the sight of a newborn, they rejoiced in the wisdom of the Divine knowledge. “Their souls tasted heavenly things.”

Walking with Hildegard of Bingen

Though arriving in Bethlehem at the scene of the birth the three seekers also arrive in that innermost “chamber” ... “where the sinner lets go of sins and holiness arises,” as Hildegard has it in her allegorical language.

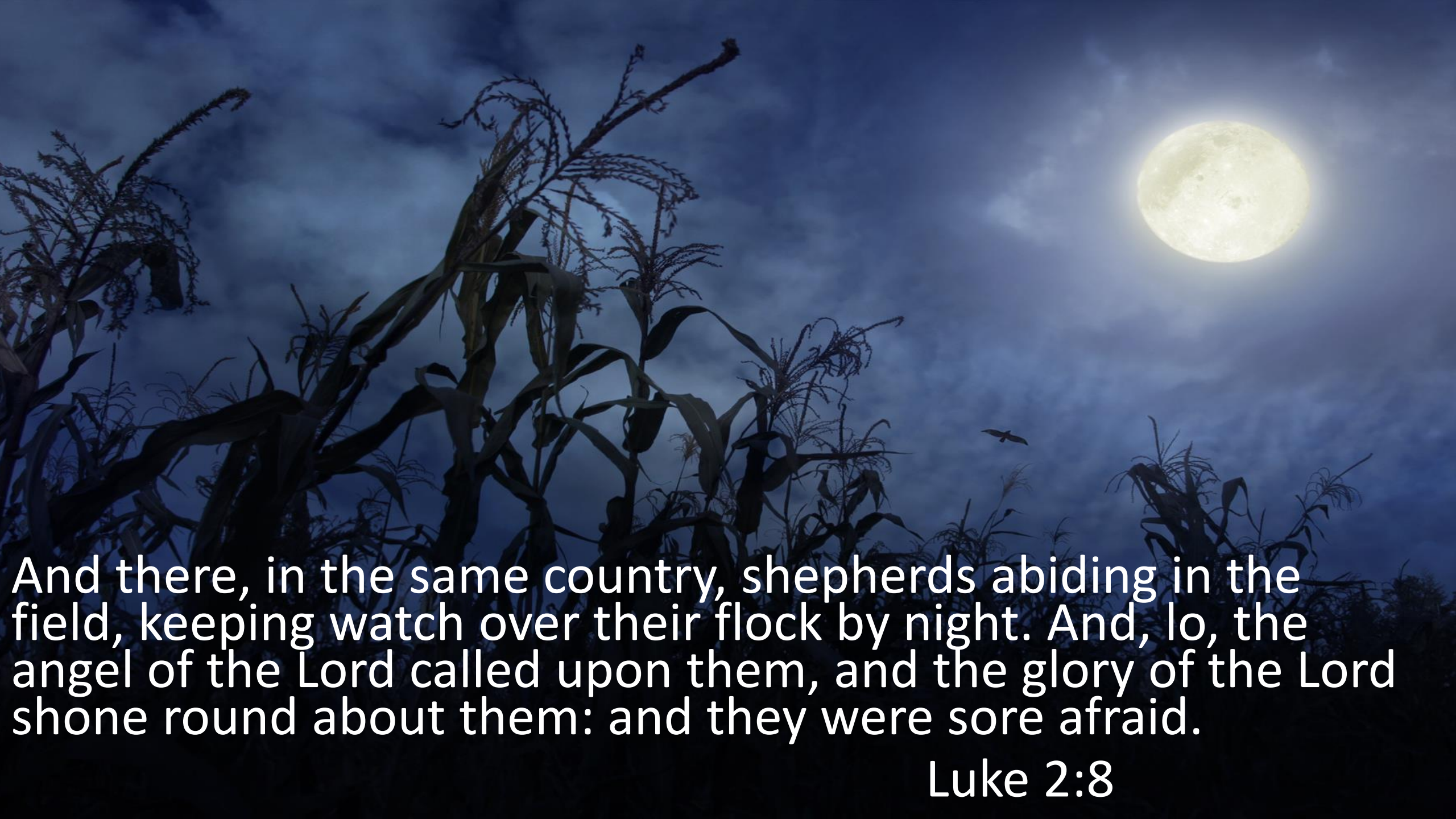
Overcome by that very moment they open their heart and offer their innermost riches (again in my own words):

- gold, the beginning of Divine knowledge,
- frankincense, the becoming transparent to our shortcomings,
- myrrh, the deepening of the self.

<https://www.cloisterseminars.org/blog/2021/1/2/epiphany-eve-wise-women-also-came>



Basilica of National Shrine, Nativity
Chapel Washington D.C



And there, in the same country, shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord called upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

Luke 2:8



Charlie Brown Christmas: Things to Know As It Celebrates 50 Years

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CIYECDQk5Vg>

We need no
wings to go in
search of him
but have only
to look upon
him present
within us.

St. Teresa of Avila
1515-1582



Reflections

- What Christmas means to me?
- When and why do I most believe?



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER LISTS

REQUESTS



CLOSING DIALOGUE

SOLO: For unto us, is born this day

UNISON: A Savior who shall be called Emanuel.

SOLO: Glory to God in the highest heaven,

UNISON: and on earth peace and goodwill to all.

SOLO: Peace be with You

UNISON: Acquire My Peace Within You



Our next
GATHERING
will be on
January 29,
2023