

August 20, 2020

The Gospel of Luke especially makes much of appearances and realities. By that I mean that in some respects Luke gives us more details about the social political scene of 1st century Palestine than any of the other Gospels.

By that, I mean, that unlike the other three Gospels Luke tells who the power players are, he gives names and titles and locations about the religious and political leadership of the time, and remember he was writing probably 50 years after the events he wants to tell us about so his details are not intended to be incidental but crucial to the story he wants us to hear.

My thinking on this is that Luke was far more sensitive to discerning the hidden works of “God” than most. He saw way beneath the surface and had deep insights into the Presence in the world which did not work like any other presence or power.

We may all think we know what is going on, what is really important, who is really important, but we are probably mistaken, if we have any sense of “God” as revealed in Jesus Christ.

Luke summarizes all of the great and powerful people involved, Herod, Caesar Augustus, Zechariah and Elizabeth and their kid, John, Annas and Caiaphas, Theophilus, even the angel Gabriel and finally we get to this young girl in Galilee in the town of Nazareth and she sets the whole shebang in motion to get us to Jesus Christ.

That may make no sense to you at all, but it is Luke’s way of having us know that he believed that “God” worked in non-conventional and unanticipated ways.

Rather than a conventional display of power with armies of angels wielding flaming torches, we get a baby born in a manger.

So in these times of terribly exaggerated dissonance filled with screaming and hysterical political rhetoric and breathless breaking news at every moment with serious threats to our welfare and the possibility of worse yet to come, maybe, even, no football, could it be that “God” is at work beneath the surface of the pandemonium and chaos of this circus of death and darkness.

I think yes.

I have discovered an entire world of good news, gentleness, thoughtfulness, peaceful and serene words spoken and written far beneath the surface mostly of young people sharing their poetry online for one and all.

Google Tyler Knott Gregson or Christopher Poindexter or readpoetry.com or brooklynpoets.org or poetryfoundation.org

These seemingly unimportant and insignificant voices are speaking words of hope and meaning into our world and those words are taking flesh in their own lives.

Lets continue to send good and generous and peaceful thoughts and prayers to all of those going to school at home or away, let us send good and generous thoughts and prayers to teachers and administrators and school boards and college and university campuses, let us trust that "God" is doing marvelous things with young minds and hearts.