

WESLEYSEMINARY.
EDU

W 1942

LICHT

VOL. 67, ISSUE 2

Wesley Journal



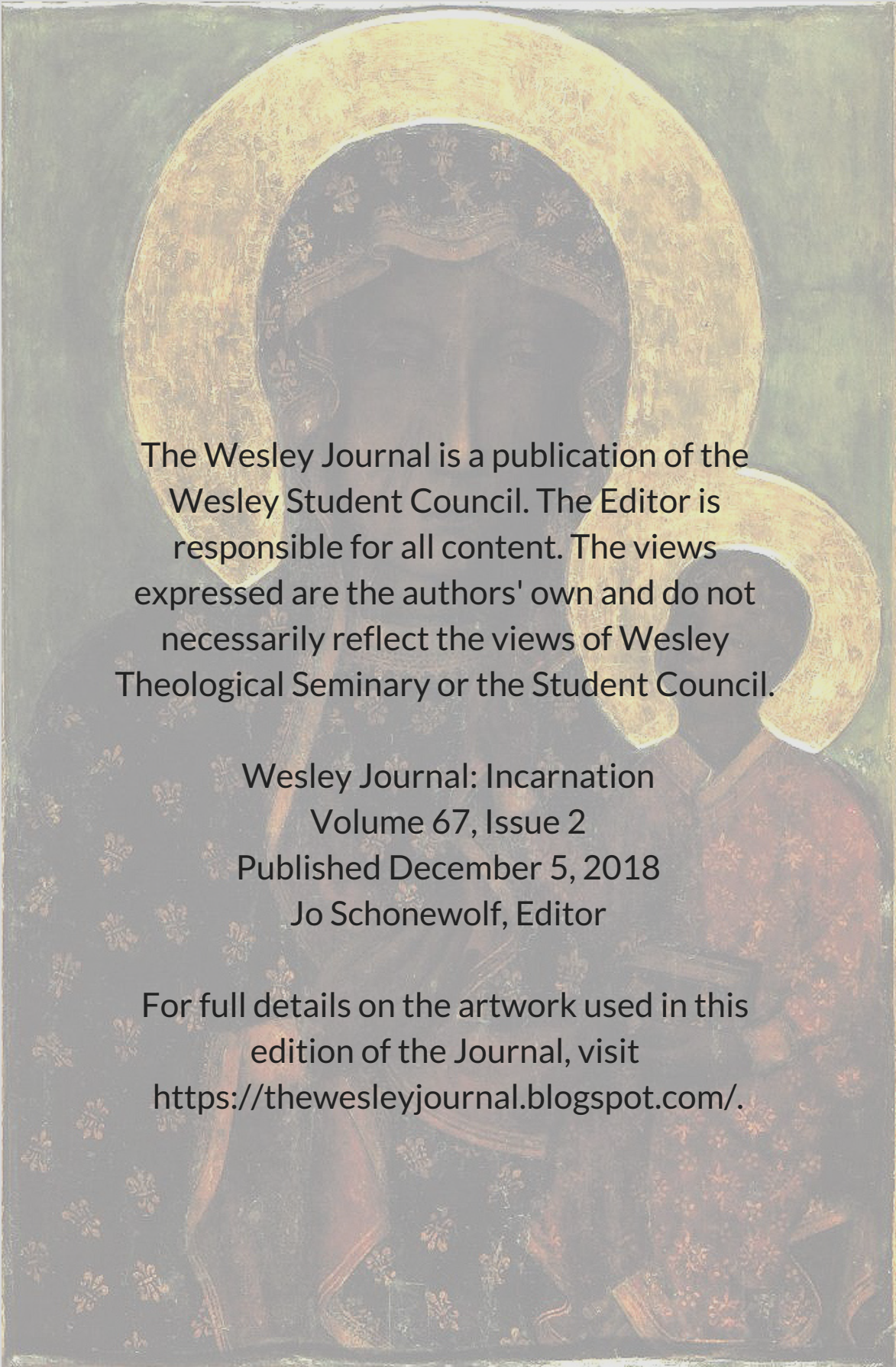
NEUCHÂTEL
UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY
OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY

INCARNATION

ESSEL

FESTUNG STALINGRAD



The Wesley Journal is a publication of the Wesley Student Council. The Editor is responsible for all content. The views expressed are the authors' own and do not necessarily reflect the views of Wesley Theological Seminary or the Student Council.

Wesley Journal: Incarnation
Volume 67, Issue 2
Published December 5, 2018
Jo Schonewolf, Editor

For full details on the artwork used in this edition of the Journal, visit <https://thewesleyjournal.blogspot.com/>.

CONTENTS

03 PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE

A message from the Dean of Campus Life, Rev. Dr. Asa J. Lee

07 REFLECTIONS ON INCARNATION

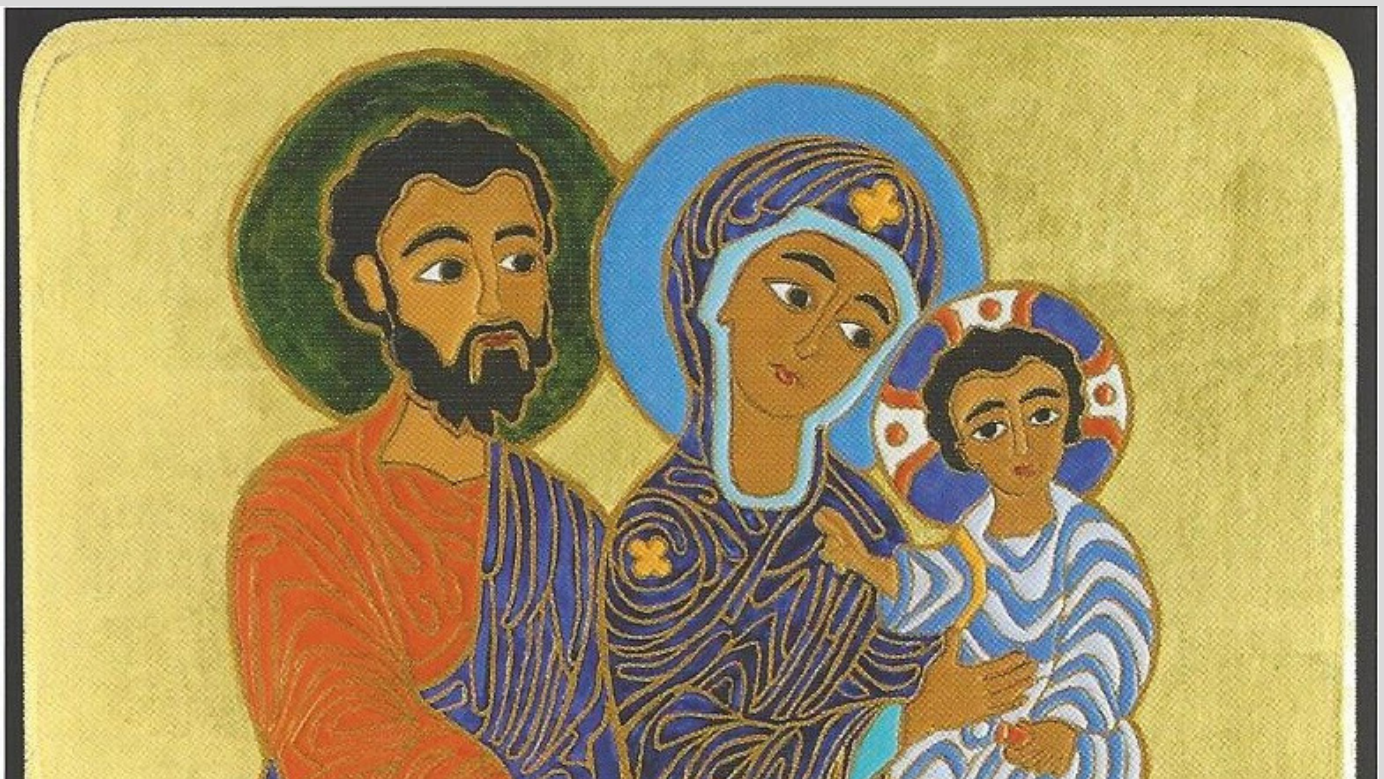
Students remark on what it means for God to become flesh

04 STUDENT LIFE

A message from the student council, a spotlight of events around campus, and the student organizations calendar

14 CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The Journal is seeking writers, artists, and letters to the editor





EDITOR'S NOTE

I sometimes think that seminarians get the shortest end of every stick. Advent is one of the busiest times in the church calendar and many of us are active members of the faith community we attend or serve, caught up in the hustle and bustle of helping our congregations prepare their hearts for the wonder we'll celebrate on Christmas. We'll rewrite the script for the Christmas pageant, organize the advent devotion, and help the pastor go on a search for the good ornaments for the Chrismon tree, buried somewhere in the church basement.

All the while, of course, finals are looming over us. The semester is rushing toward its end and we are at the mercy of papers and projects and in-class exams. We're exhausted and spent and if one more person tells us to breathe and "practice self-care," we're going to lose it. We're

being pulled in all directions and it is overwhelming. But at least we're not alone in this. Not alone at all.

For this edition of the Journal, we invited students to reflect on what the incarnation means to them. What does it mean for the Word to become flesh and live among us? How can we begin to understand what it means to be loved by a Love so powerful that Love couldn't stay away, but came instead to be with us, being born among the poorest of us?

So take a moment to back up your work, then close the computer and the books and join us and some shepherds in Bethlehem. We have some wonderful things to see.

Jo Schonewolf
Editor, Wesley Journal
December 5 2018



Planning for Our Future

a message from the Dean of Campus Life

Wesley Theological Seminary has a 60 year ministry in the city of Washington, D.C. This ministry was birthed through a vision to shape persons for ministry using the context of the city. Over these 60 years, theological education as a subset of higher education has gone through a great many changes. Wesley is no stranger to those changes and it is change to which I now seek to address.

Wesley has entered into a relationship with a commercial developer to explore a land lease development of a portion of our land for a new student dormitory. This dormitory would house a combination of our student families and American University students. This market-rate student housing would sit on land that currently encompasses Carroll and Straughn dormitories as well as the parking lot. We would not sell our land but rather lease the land the building would sit on. The size and scope of this building has not been fully determined, but its presence on our campus would reshape our campus and shared life together.

The central question you may ask is, “What’s in it for Wesley?” The answer is essentially, “Our future.” With all of the changes and uncertainty in theological education, the financial picture for many of our sister schools is not as bright. With the added uncertainty of the United Methodist Church, our own fiscal future must also be assured. It is hoped, that through this agreement, our ability to remain committed to (and in) the ministry context of Washington DC can be reaffirmed for the next generation of pastoral and community leaders.

In the new year, we will hold town halls for students and other community members to hear more about this project and its impact on the community. Going forward, the Wesley administration is committed to keeping you informed about the changes on our campus and the ways this project unfolds.

Peace,
Rev. Dr. Asa J. Lee
Associate Dean for Campus Life
Director, African American Church Studies

A MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL

Hello Wesley Community,

I pray that you all have had a wonderful and transformative semester no matter where you are in your seminary journey. As you reflect back on this semester, my hope is that it was one of academic learning and productivity and also one in which you discovered new or deepened passions, connected with a community that is meaningful to you, or learned something about yourself.

As finals approach, and have maybe already started for some, it can be easy to feel weighed down by stress. Thinking through everything that needs to get done can feel overwhelming.

**REMEMBER
THAT YOU HAVE
A COMMUNITY
SURROUNDING
YOU. YOU ARE
CAPABLE AND
NEED CARE TOO.**

During this season of finals, please remember to tackle what needs to be done in the way that is most effective for you. Remember that you have a community surrounding you. Remember that you are capable and need care, too. Student Council's Student Care Committee, in partnership with others, is spending these last weeks of the semester encouraging us to focus on our minds, bodies, and souls during finals and as the holidays approach.

Last week, Rev. Lisa Banks-Williams hosted a "Self-Care Brush Up Session." If you attended the event and something in particular resonated with you, be sure to share it with your friends and classmates. This week, Wesley Fellowship is sponsoring a photo scavenger hunt around American University and Wesley's campuses. Use this opportunity to stretch your legs and give your brain something else to focus on at their event. Next week, during finals, Wesley's faculty and staff will provide an assortment of healthy snacks to fuel our brains and bodies as we prepare for exams and finish papers.

During this stressful season, please know that Student Council is here to support you. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me or another Student Council representative. You will be in my prayers as you finish up this semester, travel to visit family or friends, lead your congregation through this holiday season, or any and all of these. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Student Council!

Peace,
Nicole Poland, Student Council Vice President

CALENDAR

a collection of events put on by
Wesley's Student Organizations

DECEMBER & JANUARY

12/6 Association of Black Seminarians: Meeting

12/7 Wesley Fellowship: Zoo Lights at 7pm

12/9-14 Final week of classes/Exams

Faculty and staff will be donating snacks for finals week

1/15 Wesley Fellowship: Welcome Back Game Night

Millian Lounge from 6-8pm

WEEKLY

Korean Student Association--Meetings every other Thursday

Wesley Fellowship-- Prayer Services Wednesdays from 12:00-12:15pm in
the chapel

Association of Black Seminarians--Prayer space Thursdays from 12:15-
1:15pm and 5:15-6:15pm

AROUND CAMPUS

Vanessa Rodriguez

Over the course of November, I attended two events put on by Wesley student organizations, a worship service with the Association of Black Seminarians and the international student lunch. Both were lovely events that I am thankful for attending and it is with great pleasure that I provide a glimpse about them.

The Association of Black Seminarians worship service on November 12, 2018 where the service was truly delightful.

The key passage for the service was Numbers 27, which tells the story of the Daughters of Zelophehad. As I listened to the word read and proclaimed, it spoke to me about the right, the privilege, and the responsibility that we have to stand up against injustice for ourselves and for those that will come after. Jaleesa Hall, who delivered the sermon, was an electrifying speaker and an honor to hear

preach. “We Shall Overcome” and “Ain’t Gon’ Let Nobody” accompanied the sermon. The songs were moving and emotional, a perfect compliment to the sermon. I encourage everyone to attend the next ABS worship service. Between the energizing preaching and affecting music, it was a powerful experience.

The International Student Lunch on Friday, November 16, 2018 culminated a week of the events focused on international students. It was a time to fellowship with the international students over tasty food from a wide variety of countries. This was a fantastic way to meet the international students that enrich Wesley and learn more about the work they perform in their home countries. I was moved to learn that some students risk their lives on daily basis to preach the Good News. The international lunch was a great way to kick-off the Thanksgiving holiday and I look forward to next year when we again celebrate the students that find their way to Wesley from around the globe!





INCARNATION

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE WORD
BECOMES FLESH?



RE-IMAGINING NATIVITY

Chet Mitchell Jechura

The miraculous event of the incarnation, which is celebrated each year at Christmas, pierces through the darkness of the world with the radiance of its truth. It would do followers of Jesus Christ well to imagine the nativity scene unfolding before us and watch for ourselves the fullest revelation of what it means to be human and divine become embodied again through the birth of Christ. The nativity should not be regarded merely as some distant, historical moment, nor should it be reduced in a seasonal way to something that is put on display as “authentic” Christmas décor. Instead, the nativity can and should come alive in our hearts and minds each time we reimagine it on any day of the year. This is vitally important; the incarnation matters for Christian witness and discipleship. Followers of Christ must take the incarnation seriously for the living of these days.

The words from the Christmas hymn, “O Holy Night,” offer moral insight into the incarnation: “Truly he taught us to love one another; his law is love and his gospel is peace. Chains shall he break for the slave is our brother; and in his name all oppression shall cease!” Christ in all his saving glory came to fill the world with an

everlasting light so vibrant that even the deepest darkness cannot overcome. As we make our journey through the liturgical season of Advent, the daylight grows shorter by the minute because the sun sets earlier each day. Meanwhile, the powers and principalities continue to thrive off the proliferation of ubiquitous evil. In the midst of all the horrors, despairs, and setbacks we must endure, the distance from the nativity can feel discouraging as we deeply yearn for Christ to come again and make all things new. However, we are not called to idly stand by and wait for Christ’s return. God’s righteousness and justice cannot delay. We are called to act now and transform the world for the greater glory of God, by grace through faith. Christ calls us to a new and different way of being in the world today, not tomorrow.

**WE ARE NOT
CALLED TO IDLY
STAND BY AND
WAIT FOR
CHRIST'S
RETURN. GOD'S
RIGHTEOUSNESS
AND JUSTICE
CANNOT DELAY.**

The God who loves humanity so deeply that God became enfleshed in order to enter into solidarity with human experience and suffering for the salvation of the world also teaches us how to be human in the most human way. We need only look to Christ for illumination. I dream of a day when every human is humane like Christ.



José y Maria by Everett Patterson

The incarnation invites us to become our fullest selves, in the way that God intended for creation from the very moment when God began to create out of love, for love, with love, and in love. If we do anything this Christmas, I pray it is we recommit ourselves to being the most humane we can with one another. If we need light to fill the darkness and hope for the journey when weary times set in, let us revisit the nativity scene in our imaginations. Only then when the truth of the incarnation comes alive for us in our hearts and minds will Charles Wesley's words ring true: "Come, thou long-expected Jesus! Born to set thy people free. From our fears and sins, release us. Let us find our rest in Thee."

A COMMENT ON THE INCARNATION

Angela Lovegrove

The incarnation, God becoming human in the form of Jesus, has fascinated people for centuries. There is so much artwork on the incarnation, lots of stories, and many different interpretations of the incarnation, even within the Gospels. The incarnation means many different things to many different people. The incarnation is the basis for Christianity, but for me, it means so much more than just that.

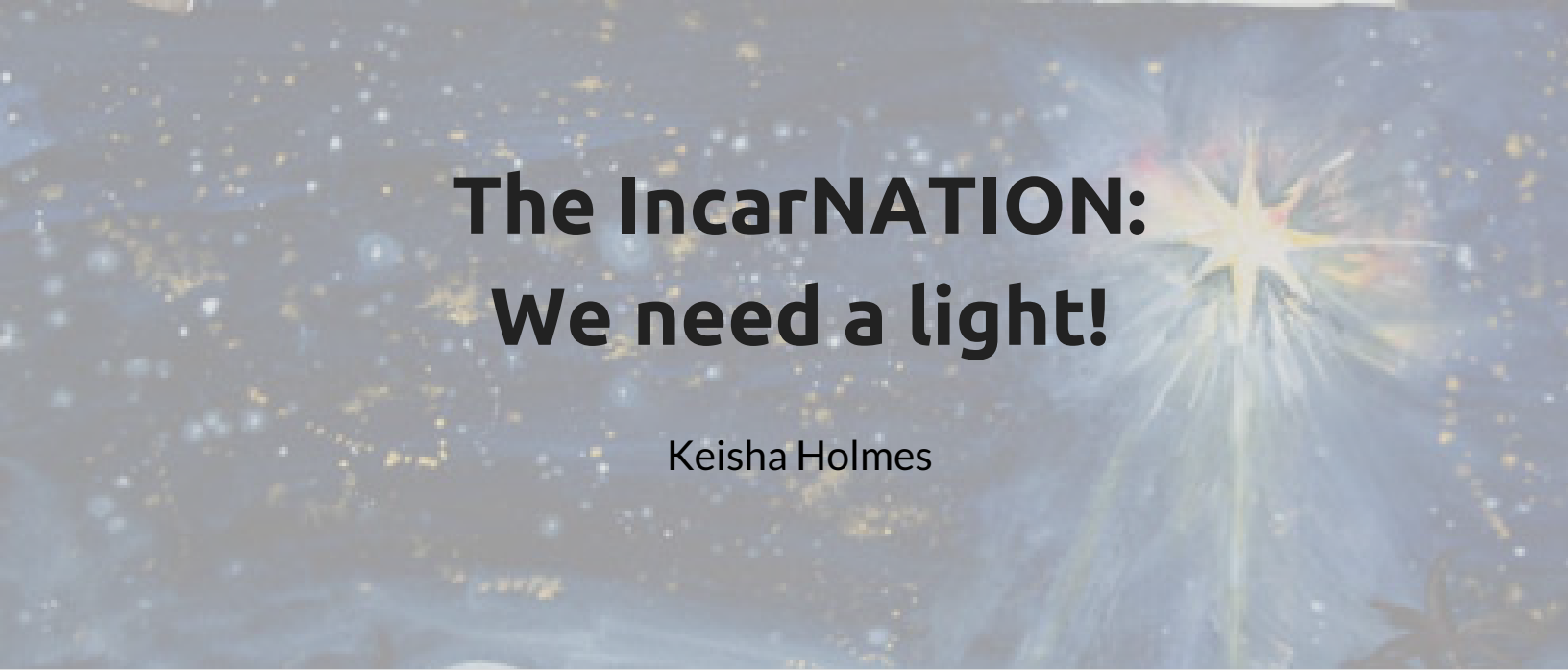
It is amazing to me that God would take the time to take on a human nature. I feel as though it is possible that God remembered many things from viewing the world from the perspectives of humans. As the old saying goes, if you want to understand a person, walk a mile in their shoes. Whether or not God actually learned, or if God just remembered what it is like for the humans that God created, or if God came down to earth simply for our salvation, the important part is that God spent time among humans.

One of the most important parts of the incarnation is that Jesus sets a pretty good example for how we, as Christians, should live. He spoke to those that other people in his society and his religion viewed as

dangerous, or lesser. He treated them like people, rather than “other,” which I think is an important thing that many people forget to do in today’s society. Overall, God spending time among humans provides humans with an example of how to live their lives. We can’t all be Jesus, but we can certainly try.

**SOME DAYS,
EVERYTHING
CAN SEEM
HOPELESS. BUT
FOR ME, THE
INCARNATION
PROVIDES
HOPE.**

Ultimately, the incarnation means salvation, which to me, means hope. Hope is something that I believe everyone should have, whether it is hope for a better future, hope for seeing someone you miss, or hope for something else. Hope is important because it helps people to keep going, even when things never seem as though they will get better. Some days, everything can seem hopeless. But for me the incarnation, and the salvation that comes with it, provides hope.



The IncarNATION: We need a light!

Keisha Holmes

This is the season of Advent, as believers with great anticipation;
Waiting for the light and the preacher mounting the pulpit with emphasis of salvation
As they've studied their lectionary notes
Of The Lord's annunciation and bold within the margins of the Euangelion
As the choir stands and with their angelic proclamation and sings a song:

"O come o come Emmanuel ransom captive Israel"

However, this advent season with great anticipation
Those who are captive are sitting in the congregation
Wrestling with this invitation to salvation

These thoughts are occupying their attention:

Systematic oppression
Holy indignation
Societal frustration
Authority casting lots thriving off separation
They are ready to remove spiritual stents
Like a doctor ready for operation!

With the instruments used to cut flesh
They too cut flesh
Piercing the heart of kinship with a IV
Diluting the arteries
Stopping the flow, life and creativity of humanity
Killing the framework of community
And now we are left with a broken society

Asking the God of all comfort to comfort
Asking the God of peace to provide
Comfort and provide? Why?
When we are dashing heads upon rocks
And refusing to remove beams from eyes

We are Blind!

It doesn't feel like fire shut up in our bones
Justice is our broken compass and we cannot find our way home.
There's a calling for this light, a plunge into an eternal fountain
As we are Plunging, there is an urging but
Still can't find the words to go tell it on the mountain...

Yet...

We are in darkness and need a light

*A light that will knock down walls of division
Embrace our brothers and sisters breaking
the chains of immigration
This is not an invasion just an invitation to
see the light of the incarnation.*

We are in darkness and need a light

*A light that will take the nuclear bomb of
prejudice and defuse it with the voice of
command:*

PEACE ... Be Still!

*As the raging sea calms we still must be
aware that racism is real!*

We are in Darkness and need a light

*Hate crimes upon hate crime; mass shooting
upon mass shooting
This tragedy still lingers in the air creating
the space for this heartbreaking question:
DOES ANYONE STILL CARE?*



The Holy Family by Janet McKenzie

*We need your light! That light that the Gospel of Matthew says can't be hidden,
The light that John declared that the darkness could not comprehend
The light that shines at the end of that tunnel
With a hope that's tangible and a spirit that guides and ties up loose ends.*

*This light gleaming in the manger
May have been strange but was no stranger
May have been cautious but this light meant to mediate the danger... of the nation!*

*We are prepared at the table
Without hesitation
Without a forced form of salvation
Having a compassionate grace filled conversation*

*We hear a cry of the one in the wilderness crying out:
"Prepare ye the way of the lord "*

*This advent season with great anticipation
We should be invited to pray for our nation
And those with a divine intention to extend this invitation!
Allow us to join the choir and their angelic proclamation:*

*"All glory to God, and peace upon earth,
Be published abroad at Jesus' birth;
The forfeited favor of Heaven we find
Restored in the Savior and Friend of humankind"*



LIKE WHAT YOU SEE? WANT TO HELP MAKE IT?

**THE WESLEY JOURNAL IS SEEKING
CONTRIBUTORS!**

IF YOU CAN...

1. Write, letters, or poetry
 2. Do graphic design
 3. Draw, paint, or take photos
-

REACH OUT!

Email Jo Schonewolf at
wesleyjournaleditor@gmail.com
with your interest. The next edition of the Journal
will be out at the beginning of next semester, so
reach out soon!

CONTRIBUTORS



Keisha Holmes
Seminararian



Chet Mitchell Jechura
Seminararian



Rev. Dr. Asa J. Lee
Associate Dean of
Campus Life



Angela Lovegrove
Seminararian



Nicole Poland
Vice President, Student
Council

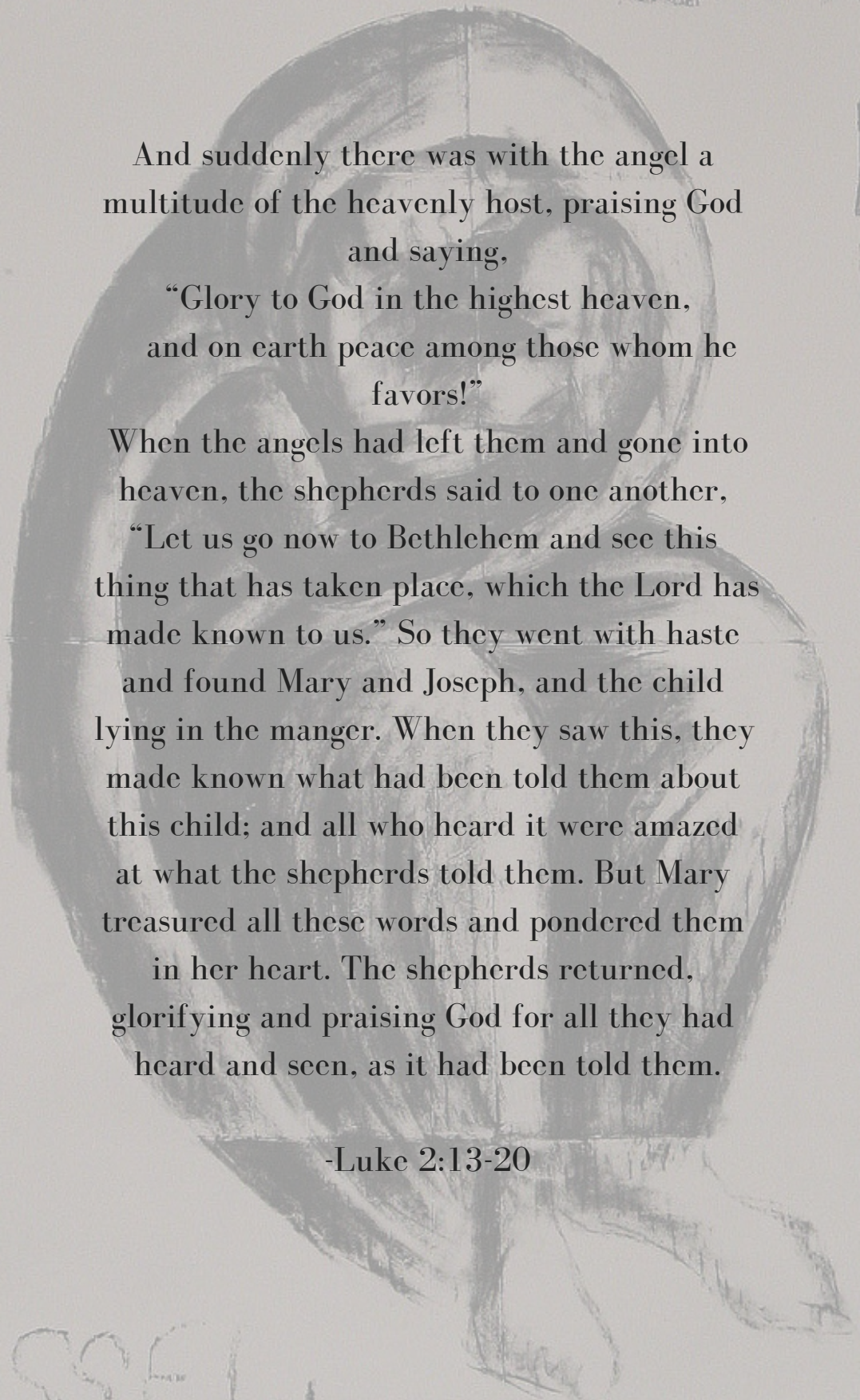


Vanessa Rodriguez, Esq.
Seminararian



Jo Schonewolf
Editor, Wesley Journal

W 1942 LICHT



And suddenly there was with the angel a
multitude of the heavenly host, praising God
and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he
favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into
heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

“Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this
thing that has taken place, which the Lord has
made known to us.” So they went with haste
and found Mary and Joseph, and the child
lying in the manger. When they saw this, they
made known what had been told them about
this child; and all who heard it were amazed
at what the shepherds told them. But Mary
treasured all these words and pondered them
in her heart. The shepherds returned,
glorifying and praising God for all they had
heard and seen, as it had been told them.

ESSEL

-Luke 2:13-20

PESTUNG STALINGRAD