

EPICLESIS VIRTUAL CHAPTER HOUSE

PRAYER AND EUCHARIST, JANUARY 6, 2021

Special Epiphany Edition, C. S. Lewis and George MacDonald

Isaiah 55:8-9 † Micah 5:2 † Matthew 2:1-12

Daily Reading

We, with our modern democratic and arithmetical presuppositions would so have liked and expected all men to start equal in their search for God. One has the picture of great centripetal roads coming from all directions, with well-disposed people, all meaning the same thing, and getting closer and closer together. How shockingly opposite to that is the Christian story! One people picked out of the whole earth; that people purged and proved again and again. Some are lost in the desert before they reach Palestine; some stay in Babylon; some becoming indifferent. The whole thing narrows and narrows, until at last it comes down to a little point, small as the point of a spear – a Jewish girl at her prayers. That is what the whole of human nature has narrowed down to before the Incarnation takes place. Very unlike what we expected, but, of course, not in the least unlike what seems, in general, as shown by Nature, to be God's way of working.... The people who are selected are, in a sense, unfairly selected for a supreme honor; but it is also a supreme burden. The People of Israel come to realize that it is their woes which are saving the world.

The Business of Heaven—Daily Readings from C. S. Lewis, ed. Walter Hooper—January 6

Meditation

“That Holy Thing”

They all were looking for a king
To slay their foes and lift them high;
Thou cam'st, a little baby thing
That made a woman cry.

O Son of Man, to right my lot
Naught but Thy presence can avail;
Yet on the road Thy wheels are not,
Nor on the sea Thy sail!

My how or when Thou wilt not heed,
But come down Thine own secret stair,
That Thou mayst answer all my need--
Yea, every bygone prayer.

--George MacDonald (1824–1905)