

The shepherds were unusual heralds of the birth of the Christ child. They were not wealthy, influential or politically important. They lived simple, often lonely lives. But their presence at the manger is a sign of hope – that we can all experience moments of spiritual joy and awakening. The shepherds went away ‘glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen...’(Luke 2:20). We too are called to celebrate the moments of hope in our own lives: times of unexpected kindness from others; moments of inspiration and insight; experiences of solitude and contentment; times of excitement and wonder.

As Leunig reminds us in his Christmas reflection:

Love is born
With a dark and troubled face
When hope is dead
And in the most unlikely place
Love is born
Love is always born

(Leunig, 1991, The Prayer Tree)

The Advent Gift of Hope

*Pause for
Reflection*

*When have you
received the gift of
hope?*

*A real Christmas gift, for which Advent is the process,
is learning to hum hope, learning to dance the divine...*

(Chittister, 2018, joanchittister.org Nov 27)