



## Let us go joyfully to meet the Lord. (Psalm 121)

Dearest Sisters,

the words of Psalm 121 places us firmly in the time of Advent, the beginning of the new liturgical year, and sets us on a journey to encounter the mystery of Christ in the history we live.

As Pope Francis says, " Our life is not a random chaotic series of events, one following the other. It is rather a precise itinerary which, from one annual celebration of the His Death and Resurrection to the next, conforms us to Him, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ." (*Desiderio desideravi*, 64).

In this time of God, everything acquires a new meaning. Every moment of existence, every moment, every little thing, even if hidden, is loved by God and does not remain excluded from His mercy. Everything in Him has value. And we, in Him, learn to give meaning to our personal history and the history outside of us. This is the mystery of the Incarnation: a God who loves the world so much that He gives His only begotten Son (Jn. 3:16) and He never tires of offering gestures of closeness.

First of all, the psalm tells us that it is the Lord who comes toward us. He wants to meet us; he comes to seek us where we are and how we are. He is he who moves first and takes the initiative to approach and begin a generous and fruitful dialogue with us.

We can respond to the Lord and set out toward Him precisely because He, first, comes to meet us. His attraction takes us out of our comfort zone, our wearinesses and disappointments. His charm draws us and spurs us to go beyond the confines of the usual to face the risks of the unusual and the new, hidden within the usual things.

Moreover, the psalm tells us, the journey we take has two characteristics: it is not a solitary one and it is made in the joy.

Those who walk through history attracted by the Lord counter the current culture of consumerism that wants isolated people, single individuals because, for it, the enemy is the strong relationships born of being together and recognizing as community. It is not possible to walk alone toward Jesus Christ because Jesus Christ has established around Himself a community of sisters and brothers: the Church.

In our going as a community, as the Church, there can be no lack of joy, which accompanies us even in the inevitable difficulties we encounter. Those who walk toward the Lord know that their joy is in the goal that lies ahead, in a future that is open, because the encounter with the Lord is a promise that is fulfilled in great faith and great confidence that can truly comprehend these words.

He is the Coming One: let us meet him with joy!

Blessing Advent 2022!

Se Rita Bonni