

Wednesday, December 9

Excerpted from *St. Laika's* by Pastor Tim, statuary by Pr. Wendy:

**Saint Nicholas** is a prime example of the role hagiography plays in the life of the Church. Hagiography is an art form in which the stories told about an established saint, the legends or narratives are sifted and brought together in a kind of holy (from the Greek "hagios") biography. The hagiography surrounding Nicholas tells us this about him:

Nicholas' parents died when he was a young man, leaving him well off and he determined to devote his inheritance to works of charity. An opportunity soon arose. A citizen of Patara had lost all his money, and had moreover to support three daughters who could not find husbands because of their poverty; so the wretched man was going to give them over to prostitution. This came to the ears of Nicholas, who thereupon took a bag of gold and, under cover of darkness threw it in at the open window of the man's house. Here was a dowry for the eldest girl and she was soon duly married. At intervals Nicholas did the same for the second and third; at the last time, the father was on the watch, recognised his benefactor and overwhelmed him with his gratitude. This was the seed of the legend of Nicholas as the bringer of gifts to children, which turned him over time into the beloved figure he is today.



**Scripture.** In the "First Letter of John," chapter four, verses nine to eleven, we read: "God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another."

**Prayer.** Almighty God, in your love you gave your servant Nicholas of Myra a perpetual name for deeds of kindness both on land and sea. Grant, we pray, that your Church may never cease to work for the happiness of children, the safety of sailors, the relief of the poor and the help of those tossed by tempests of doubt or grief; through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

**Lucy, or Lucia,** was martyred in Sicily, during Diocletian's reign of terror of 303-304, among the most dramatic of the persecutions of early Christians. Her tomb can still be found in the catacombs at Syracuse. Most of the details of Lucy's life are obscure. In the tradition she is remembered for the purity of her life and the gentleness of her spirit.

In popular piety, Lucy is perhaps most revered because her feast day, December 13, was for many centuries the shortest day of the year. (The reform of the calendar by Pope Gregory VIII (1582) would shift the shortest day to December 21/22, depending upon the year.) It was on Lucy's day that the light began gradually to return and the days to lengthen.

But how did this Sicilian martyr become so revered in the far north? In pre-Christian Scandinavia, the Winter Solstice, December 13th, was called "Lussinatta." Lussi, a female being with evil traits, like a female demon or witch, was said to ride through the air. It was believed to be particularly dangerous to be out during Lussi Night. According to tradition, children who had done mischief had to take special care, since Lussi could come down and carry them away. As Christianity moved through Scandinavia, Lussi Night became Lucia Night, and St. Lucy was seen as a bringer of light, safety, and food.

In the domestic celebration of Lucia-fest, a young girl in the family dresses in pure white (a symbol of Lucy's faith, purity, and martyrdom) and wears a crown of lighted candles upon her head (a sign that on Lucy's day the light is returning) and serves her family special foods prepared especially for the day. In praise of her service, the young girl is called Lucy for the day.



**Scripture.** In the fifth Chapter of Ephesians, at verses eight and nine, we find this: For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— 9for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

**Prayer.** Loving God, for the salvation of all you gave Jesus Christ as light to a world in darkness: Illumine us, as you illumined your daughter Lucy, with the light of Christ, that by the merits of his passion we may be led to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**We are holding Gathered Worship at our usual time of 10:30 AM:** Our procedures and safety measures are working well, thanks be to God. The sanctuary has been rearranged to safely accommodate 30 people, so there is still room for you. We will continue to livestream our service. If you would like Home Communion, please email or call the church.

**UPDATE:** We have had an issue with the ZOOM Worship login so we will be using the following for worship and for meetings. It has been aptly renamed, “Worship and Meetings” and can be found at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85167890638?pwd=eHptd21KN01Vc0QyS2pSNVU4U3hUQT09>

**ID # 851 6789 0638 Passcode: 860145**

Wednesday Exegesis continues to offer in-person and Zoom, using Pr. Dan’s account:

**ID# 460 550 4086 Passcode: 600776**



Both of these accounts can be found at <https://zoom.us/>. You will need to download the app to your computer, phone or device. Then, to join our Zoom meeting simply go to: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4605504086> If you are using dial-up, find your local number at: <https://us04web.zoom.us/u/fei59xziHG>. To watch the recording of Sunday’s service go to [www.trinityontransit.org](http://www.trinityontransit.org).

## From Mary Wolf’s “Jesus’ Family Tree: Advent 2020” Second Wednesday in Advent

Where restless crowds are thronging Along the city ways,  
Where pride and greed and turmoil Consume the fevered days,  
Where vain ambitions banish  
All thoughts of praise and prayer,  
The people’s spirits languish;  
But you, O Christ, are there.

(LBW #430)

“...and Solomon the father of Rehoboam.” (Matthew 1:7)



Solomon was famed for his wisdom. His verdict in the dispute of two women over one child is famous (1 Kings 3:16-28) Solomon was also famous for building the Temple in Jerusalem, beautiful and renowned. (1 Kings 6) But it was built with forced labor and high taxes. Solomon was also known for his many (700!) wives. But as he married foreign princesses, he began to worship their gods and he strayed from the covenant and the worship of God. God warned Solomon of the consequences of his unfaithfulness (1 Kings 11:1-13). When Solomon died and Rehoboam became king, the people pleaded with him to ease their burdens; to lower the taxes. Instead of listening to his wise advisors, he listened to his young companions and raised taxes even higher. The result was a rebellion, and ten of the twelve tribes seceded. The kingdom of David and Solomon was split into two kingdoms – Judah in the south, with Rehoboam as king, and Israel in the north with Jeroboam as king. And decades of war followed. This account is in 1 Kings 12

Prayer: God, the all-merciful! Earth hath forsaken meekness and mercy  
And slighted thy Word; Bid not thy wrath in its terrors awaken.  
Give to us peace in our time, O Lord! Amen. (LBW #462)

Copies of Mary’s  
devotional are  
still available in  
the narthex.



Advent  
at  
Trinity

