

'Hospitality is at the heart of the Advent season.

Caryll Houselander describes the Annunciation as the Spirit tapping on the door of Mary's heart: "It was as if the human race were a little dark house, without light or air, locked and latched. . . . But one day a girl opened the door. Seas of light swept through it, and the light remained in it; and in that little house a Child was born."

Excerpt from 'The Angel of Annunciation' by Alfred Delp

'There always are angels of annunciation, speaking their message of good news into the midst of anguish, scattering their seed of blessing that will spring up one day in the midst of the night. They call us to hope. These are not yet the loud angels of rejoicing and fulfilment that come out into the open, like the angels of the first Christmas. Quiet, inconspicuous, they come into rooms and hearts as they did then. Quietly they bring God's questions and proclaim to us the wonders of God, for whom nothing is impossible.'

Fra Giovanni – An Advent Prayer (adapted)

I salute you!

There is nothing I can give you which you have not; but there is much that, while I cannot give, you can take.

No heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in it today.

Take Heaven.

No peace lies in the future which is not hidden in the present moment.

Take Peace.

The gloom of the world is but a shadow; behind it, yet within our reach is joy.

Take Joy!

And so, at this Advent time, I greet you, with the prayer that for you, now and forever, the day breaks and the shadows flee away.