

**121717**

**OPEN TO GOD**

**ADVENT 3 (JOY)**

**Reflection Title: Open Your Heart / Feel**

**ADVENT READING ~ adapted from Mary Oliver**

I see or hear something every day  
that more or less kills me with delight,  
that leaves me shining like a needle  
in the haystack of light.

This is what I was born for –  
to look, to listen, to feel,  
to lose myself  
and to find myself  
inside this soft world –  
to be instructed over and over  
with joy and acclamation.

**Reading ~ Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

The spirit of YHWH is upon me,  
for YHWH has anointed me:  
God has sent me to bring good news  
to those who are poor and oppressed;  
to heal and bind up the wounds of the broken hearted;  
to proclaim release from confinement and condemnation  
to those held captive  
and liberation to those in prison;  
to proclaim the year of God's favor,  
and the day of God's vindication;  
to comfort all who mourn,  
to provide for those who grieve in Zion-  
to give them a turban instead of dust on their heads,  
the oil of gladness instead of tears,  
a garment expressive of praise instead of a disheartened spirit.  
They will be called the trees of integrity,  
strong and magnificent,  
planted by YHWH to display God's glory.  
They will build up the ancient ruins,  
and restore the former devastations;  
they will repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

“For I, YHWH, love justice;  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing.  
So I will faithfully compensate you,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with you.  
Your descendants will be renowned among the nations;  
and your offspring among the people;  
all who see you will acknowledge  
that you are a people blessed by YHWH.”

I will joyfully exalt in YHWH,  
my whole being shall exalt in my God  
who is the joy of my soul!  
My God clothed me with a robe of deliverance  
and wrapped me in a mantle of justice,  
as the betrothed dress themselves with garlands  
and their beloved adorn themselves with jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.