

Behold He Comes

by Peter Covington

Yesterday I took a more traditional view of Lent, focused on the pain of Christ, with which we are also familiar, and embracing that pain as a way to bring us forward. Like walking in the dark, we learn trust and new skills by moving where we cannot see, even as we know it is much easier to walk in the light, especially the light of warm love.

It's been a long time since I lived in a part of the world where it gets really dark during the winter, but as I live with Luis, who is from Ecuador where the amount of light remains pretty consistent during the year, I think of his difficulty here as Washington has much shorter daylight now than he has ever experienced. For many reasons, I think it a good thing that I didn't get my next job in Canada.

In Lent it would be easy to continue with our theme of darkness because of the painful, difficult elements of Jesus' suffering and preparation for death. But I



have learned that "Lent" comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "lencten," which means "lengthening" and refers to the lengthening of each day during this season in the Northern Hemisphere. In some parts of the world, that is a very big deal.

I remember in Germany how people came out of their shells to celebrate, eat outside and drop their worries, and went a little crazy. It was a

season of hope and renewal, and I don't doubt it will be a joyous time in our home this year as well, as Luis finally gets back his beloved quantities of sunlight, and we finally get married. Love continues to grow in our home, but it is just getting started as the days get longer.

In the same way, let us not lose out on this season of hope, or forget to look up from our problems in this period of potential joy, as we anticipate the anniversary of our salvation on Easter, and things continue to get brighter and better.

By May 1, May Day, much of the Northern half of the Earth is getting more than ten hours of sunlight each day, and people don't want to stop the celebration.

As Christians, we celebrate the Resurrection and later the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, and the burst of spiritual energy as God moves in the world with divine love.

Love does make a way, and in my experience, it is not terribly subtle. Isaiah (30:19) says to the people of Zion, “thou shalt weep no more. God will be gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when God shall hear it, God will answer thee.”

As the song we sing, “Days of Elijah” declares, “Behold He comes, riding on a cloud, let the trumpet call” People of God, get ready to rock!