

Today's Advent Devotional is provided by Cathy Batson

*My spirit soared when a Voice spoke to me:
"Come, come to the Heart of Love!"
How long I had stood within the house of fear, yearning to enter the gates of Love!
The New Jerusalem, the Holy City, is bound firmly together;
all who seek the Heart of Love, those who have faced their fears,
Enter the gates in peace and with great joy, singing songs of thanksgiving.
There, in harmony with the cosmos, the community gathers united in love.
Pray for the peace of the world! May all nations prosper as one!
May peace reign among all peoples, and integrity dwell within every heart!
Then will friends and neighbors, and former enemies as well, cry out, "Peace be within
you!"
For the good of the universe and in gratitude to the Beloved,
Let us serve the Holy One of all nations with glad hearts.*

*Psalm 122
(translation, Nan C. Merrill)*

This scripture speaks to me in unexpected ways. The words read like a song, an invitation to enter a place where I park my fears, my turmoil and find absolute peace and love. The words wash over me like a warm blanket on a cold night.



I am reminded of how much love I encountered when I walked into the doors of MCCDC. I did not expect to find peace, I did not expect to find a family, I especially did not expect to find GOD!

Building our generous home has been our most recent focus. I am always blessed, and honored to return what was so graciously given to me. I would go beyond calling our home "generous." It's more like a city where I go to meet my tribe, where I feel secure, where I feel loved, where I find God.

I speak to God in movement and the congregation so graciously moves with me. In those moments I am not alone. I am in community, in prayer, In love, filled with ever-repeating joy.

Amen and Ashe (pronounced Ashay)