

Tuesday, December 20

Reading Luke 2:25-32 NRSV

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

*'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'*

Great are you Jesus, the Messiah.
Promised Savior of the Jews, your reign
Is greater than David's, your Kingdom is
Grander even than Solomon's, for you reach out
Your hands and welcome the twelve tribes of Israel, the
Sons of Ishmael, the children of Cain: now we are all the
Chosen people. There is no bastard in your family, no outcast, no
Stranger outside the city walls. We all bear the family
Resemblance, the royal countenance of God,
King and Creator, Father and Priest.
Let the trumpet sound!

*But vastness blurs and time | beats level. Enough! the Resurrection,
A heart's-clarion! Away grief's gasping, | joyless days, dejection.*

Across my foundering deck shone

A beacon, an eternal beam. | Flesh fade, and mortal trash

Fall to the residuary worm; | world's wildfire, leave but ash:

In a flash, at a trumpet crash,

I am all at once what Christ is, | since he was what I am, and

This Jack, joke, poor potsherd, | patch, matchwood, immortal diamond,

Is immortal diamond.

Gerard Manley Hopkins, *That Nature is a Heraclitean Fire*, Lines 16-24