



Dear friends,

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices; together they shout for joy, for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth; shout together for joy, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Isaiah 52:7-10, NRSV

My first four-year term is coming to an end as this is already the third Christmas letter that I am writing to you from Korea. How about you? Will you be spending your Christmas at home? Where is your home? Like Nelle Morton who said long ago that "Journey is home," I can no longer point to a physical place for my home, but if I could, I so wish that I would love to make my home where peace reigns: wouldn't you?

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace!

The people who are hearing this good news are those, like Isaiah, “whose homes have been destroyed, whose land has been taken, and whose temples lay in ruins.”¹¹

Today, the land Isaiah calls home in this prophetic imagination is under siege, and the majority of the people whose lives are being annihilated in their homeland are the Palestinian children.

Like those Israelites in Babylonian exile, I desperately want to hear the sounds of the beautiful feet trotting the mountains to bring the good news that God is on the way.

Wait! Rather than waiting for the announcement, what if we all became those beautiful feet who bring the announcement—the announcement that God is coming to bring salvation not only for the people of Israel but for all of God’s creation?

I sincerely hope that this Christmas, we all show up as the embodiment of that hopeful message and come home where peace reigns.

May that wondrous miracle of peace on earth be the gift that we all receive this Christmas.

Warmly in the Spirit of Christmas,

Unzu

¹¹ Traci Blackmon, “God Shows Up,” UNBOUND, November 17, 2023 <https://justiceunbound.org/christmas-day-4/> accessed November 25, 2023.