



# Advent Reflections

## *A Reflection on the Third Week of Advent*

In a few weeks, we will hear the story of Mary and Joseph arriving in Bethlehem, knocking on door after door, looking for a place to stay for the birth of their child. Luke's Gospel tells us that she wrapped her newborn son in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room at the inn.

The words are familiar to us, and it is easy to think, as with any often repeated story that it happened a long time ago. But, in fact, the story is happening right now. God is knocking at the door, asking to enter, in every moment of our lives. Isn't that amazing?

All too often we re-enact the innkeepers' response, telling God with our words and actions that there is "no room at the inn." Maybe we are moving so fast that we can't slow down to even answer the door. Maybe there is so much noise that we don't hear the knock. Perhaps it has been so long since we answered God's knocking that we have actually forgotten how to sit still, how to listen or how to open the door. Or maybe, if we are really honest, we are afraid of what might happen if we did let God in.

And God knocks in a myriad of ways: a baby crying for attention, a child asking us to play, a co-worker asking us to cover for them, a patient trying to understand her test results or an old man sitting in a waiting room alone. The knock can come when we are asked to take on a new role or responsibility. Indeed, the question is not if God is knocking, the question is whether or not we are listening and whether or not we will open the door.

God's invitation to "Be still, and know that I am God" is difficult for many of us, yet it can be reassuring to remember that this struggle is not new and we are not alone. God has been issuing the invitation all along, knocking on the doors of our lives, asking "Can you hear me? May I come in? Do you have time?"

In these weeks of Advent, wherever you are and whatever you are doing, may you know that in every moment God is knocking at the door of your life, asking to come in. Isn't that amazing?

*The author of this reflection is Dave Ebenhoh. Visit his website at [www.stillwaterspeaks.com](http://www.stillwaterspeaks.com).*

*The Catholic Health Association would like to thank Jon Sarta for allowing us to use his music from the albums Catholic Piano Music Vol 8 - Advent and Catholic Piano Music Vol 4 - Christmas for the podcast. His Music can be obtained from [mljmusic.com](http://mljmusic.com).*