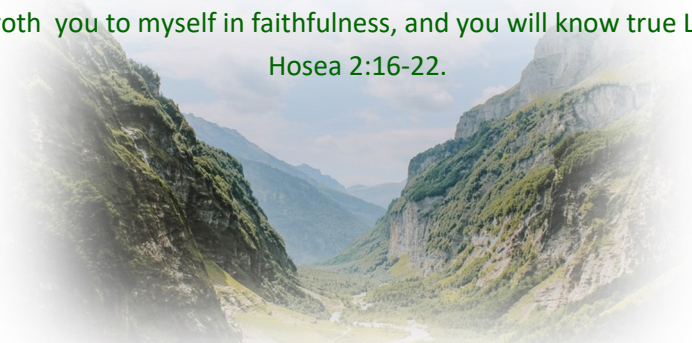


## *Infusing the Fragrance and Colour of Advent*

### *Betrothed in Tenderness*

Therefore I am now going to allure you; I will lead you into the wilderness  
and speak tenderly to your heart. There I will give back your vineyards  
and make the Valley of Achor into a gateway of hope. There you will respond to me as you did  
in the days when you were young, as you did on the day you came up out of Egypt.  
On that day, "you will call me 'my Beloved Spouse,' and no longer call Me 'master.' ....  
So I betroth you to myself forever; I betroth you with integrity and justice, with tenderness and love.  
I betroth you to myself in faithfulness, and you will know true Love...."  
Hosea 2:16-22.



- \* Loved, betrothed forever, oned, we come to be present in this oneing Love, presencing each other, becoming a communion of hearts, all beating with the one heart-beat, all desiring to nurture the fetus of the Christ child conceiving within us and among us as we prepare for Advent's birthing.
- \* Ever attentive to how we are holy ground, one in the ground of your being, we are here one with this land, breathing with the one breath, breathing the desire of Spirit, inspiring and expiring with Spirit longing. We know the wilderness, the heart ache of earth, her soul yearning for care. Yet, we know that it is here, in the midst of the wilderness, that you are most intimately with us.
- \* We feel the emptiness of the wilderness, the solitude, and become the hollow heart-womb Kolpon, enfolding, embracing, tending the luminous fetus of the Christ child within us, that we hold personally and communially. We feel our loving create a coolamon, wrapping the Christ. In love, we yield, more and more, into the holomovement of enfolding-unfolding.
- \* O womb of eternal silence, luminous ground of all, ever conceiving Christ life within us, you serenade and calm our mind, woo our hearts, quieten our bodies. From the depths of our silence you call us, beloved spouse, betrothed with integrity and justice, betrothed with tenderness and love, faithfully betrothed to you forever.
- \* The silence and stillness become more tranquil, deeper, more expansive, in this luminous conceiving and oneing, dissolving all that has the illusion of separateness, infusing translucence, composing a new harmonious love song for this moment in our evolution.
- \* Affectionately, we hold the Christ child within the earthen vessel of our heart womb, in this earthen vessel of the planet, oneing in this oneing. Tenderly, we caress this one treasure, the Christ.
- \* Wooed, we remain, abide, make a home in this mutual indwelling. We repose in this fetus of Christ light.
- \* Hope abounds, overflows, as the luminosity of the Christ light illumines the ground of our oneing. We are radiant, expectant, as we wait pregnant with divine life.