

Dearest friends!

Only a few days left before Christmas!

On the land with all the daily chores – far away from the commercial life in a town or city – one hardly notices the pre-Christmas hype, the constant noise of Christmas songs from all the loudspeakers (sometimes next to each other with different tune), and I have to remind myself : It is Advent and Christmas Eve is approaching”.

The winter sky is bright with stars making the land aglow in the currently cold clear nights. It does not have to compete with Christmas lights and keeps us close to the wonder of the Christ birth.

Will our own personal Christmas days help us to remember what it was and is all about?

Perhaps yes! And perhaps it will remain with us for a while. It may, perhaps also deepen our everlasting joy of the awareness that without God I am not and that only in Him I am at home – no matter where I am or live.

So many things have been on my mind these last days. I have been thinking about a poster that someone put on facebook:

“She threw away her masks and put on her soul”.

Reading it immediately perplexed me. Did someone think, the soul was a dress and replaces the masquerade (also dresses)?

Some questions arose immediately that I wanted to put out:

- What can you dress with?
I don't mean dressing the body but one's self.
- Would a dress not only be another identification with something that can be taken away again?
- Also, can one throw away the masks that one wears?
Do they not stick solidly on one's face over ones eyes and mouth?

I seem unaware of ever having thrown away masks. I rather lost them or they were taken by circumstances, increasing discomfort, by loss of control (most often initiated by the outside) and by truth within me.

I was helped by the increasing sense of freedom and the growing awareness of divine Reality that is not bound by space or time.

Glory to Him who came to show us the Way. May Christmas contribute to your feeling and harboring this infinite joy and praise in your heart.

A few words to Living Spring

A little while ago I went to the well house where I have to run a small propane heater so that the water pipes to and from the pressure tank don't freeze. I took the car, for the road across the

pasture had not been cleared after the last snow storm and still held 25 inches. In the rear view mirror I saw that I had scraped the drifts with the bottom of the car. No very good for the car, though luckily there was no ice.

Trailer and Baer, the two geldings,

stood beyond the well on the hill in the sun shine. They probably did not consider it as cold as it actually was: 10 degrees. My feet were frozen just from being a few minutes in the high snow. They are still cold even though I now sit in my cabin heated by a wood stove.

The chickens are upset about being locked in.

However, as soon as I open their little door, they don't want to go anywhere. Every winter I am amazed how they make it through without heat or electrical lights. They just don't lay eggs at the moment.

And the dogs?

They overwinter in the addition to my cabin in a small gated off area. At first I was concerned that they may reject the narrow space, but Willow barks as soon as she has been out for a few minutes; she hates snow and the wet and won't even go far from the door to do her business.

Last Monday evening

I tried to get some light into the downstairs bedroom of the big house by switching a small 20 amp breaker. I switched - and the electricity in the entire house was shorted in an instance. That meant not only no electricity (!), it also meant no water (!) and no heating (!) as all the pumps are depended on electricity.

At first I was unable to get the inverter system going again which also had shut down - even with expert help over the phone.

Finally on Wednesday morning

- after the snow storm that brought a foot of snow - an electrician from the company who had installed the panels came and got most of the light back and also the water, but not the heat. *(update: It is still not working after almost a week).* I am holding my breath that the water lines don't freeze up.

Downstairs things are okay in the house, i.e. it is warm enough due to the foam blocks with which the first floor is built. Upstairs I run a propane construction heater every day for a few hours.

Only next week Monday the electrical company will come back and advised me - can you imagine? - that all of this would be on a separate bill and not under the contract.

Again a challenge☺☺ To be honest, right there an then I could have packed my suitcase and go somewhere where no one knows me and I don't know any body either. But that notion was over quickly. I know that does not change a thing.

So, loved Ones, be steadfast in your challenges, remember the essence of Life at all times and celebrate the Joy - that IS in Christ and never leaves - with those close to you or with even those who are (still) strangers.

I think of you day and night and remember that you are one with me in His all encompassing big Heart. Merry Christmas!

