

Wednesday digest

December 14, 2011

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New today (and yesterday) from the *Century*:

- William Bole on [the indignity of gross inequality](#): "Which view of economic inequality has greater merit, Adam Smith's or the Bible's? It's a trick question: the two are broadly the same."
- Debra Bendis on [an Advent retreat](#): "I found myself staring at the wall. I'd done two- and three-day retreats, but this was four days alone in a cottage, and the stretch of time was unnerving."
- James McCarty on [Jesus Christ, occupier](#): "Historically speaking, there is a nearly universally accepted answer among scholars as to why Jesus was killed: because he occupied the temple."
- Henry Langknecht's [lectionary column for Christmas Day](#): "Mary didn't give birth to an avatar or a name or an idea. Mary didn't give birth to a host of representative samples of humanity's diversity. . . . Jesus already and only looks like Jesus."
- "[Stocking for the storm](#)," a poem by Jeanne Murray Walker

In the news:

- [Muslim reality show, under fire, denies charges of extremism](#)

- [Jefferson's Bible gets a second look](#)
- [A Jewish Christmas? Some say 'Oy Tannenbaum'](#)
- [Bin Laden's death rated top religion news story](#)