



Dear friends,

As we prepare to welcome the Christ child into the world once more, I have held you all in my heart and my prayers. As a community called to serve God in loving and serving others we have continued to seek to reach out to others even in the challenges of this year. It has been hard on us all and still we seek renewal in Christmas and the Divine connection within humanity. What will we find in the manger when we visit Jesus newly born in each of us this year?

This year has felt like a year of firsts. Everything has been so changed that every day has felt like we are doing something for the first time. Learners all in every aspect of life once more, like being born into a new world. There is much struggle in that and yet much promise isn't there? We may have lost much but we have gained new insights, skills, and connections. Some have had a harder time than others this year, having lost loved ones, others have felt a loss of community as they lacked the skills, technology, or motivation to celebrate our togetherness in new ways. And still, we find that we are not alone, we do live in God's world who comes to us wherever we are and whomever we are with. At home, in the church buildings, parks, the quiet of gardens or chalets, in a phone call with a family member, in the eyes of a friend over a mask that's saving our lives, or a stranger across the street who waves just to be nice.

Each year we celebrate the birth of Jesus and each year we explore the meaning for ourselves as well as for this community and world. The idea that Divinity can be found in humanity and indeed chooses to be found in us is a profound one. Just as profound is our own agency, our capacity to choose to engage of our own volition, as active participants in the Sacred. An invitation to the manger, Jesus born into the world, is also an invitation to have God be born in our hearts. Something that is shown in our actions every day.

The invitation to follow the Christmas star remains every day of the year. As we join Mary and Joseph, angels, and shepherds, in welcoming Jesus into the world can we also welcome him into our hearts like its the first time? Is this the perfect time to embrace what Jesus has taught us with the passion and enthusiasm of a new beginning? That God is love, and that the Holy One invites us to the great joy of midwifing love to all the world. I hope this Christmas that each of you will find fulfilling ways to let love overflow your heart, so you may pour it into the world. Sharing it as freely as Jesus did, giving it all to those around us, and letting those around share it with us.

May we all welcome Christ to be born in us every day.

Merry Christmas to all!

Peace, hope, joy, and love,

Rev Ryan Fea  
MDiv

