



All the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God

THE GOSPEL Christmas Day John 1: 1-18

She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

What is Love?
Where does it come from?
Who can create it?

Before anything else,
Love is there,
wanting to
share.

So in Love's own image
and likeness, we
were created.

But our Creator knew we couldn't
walk this path alone. So
Love came as a babe
to Bethlehem and
he walked
right
with us,

holding our hands,
teaching us all
the ways of
love.

“We
can only
stand in awe-struck silence
and wonder at this love
that is beyond all
telling.”*

* [Rahner](#), Encounters with Silence

THE FIRST READING. Isaiah 9:1-6

You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing.

Darkness took us. But now light is come.
The yoke is smashed and broken,
as is the taskmaster’s rod.

Mary gave us her son.

Upon his shoulders power rests.
His life is vast and forever peaceful—
now wrapped in soft clothes,
cuddled in a manger.

Wonder-Counsellor,
God-Hero, Father-Forever
Prince of Peace,
Jesus.

Come,
let us adore him

THE SECOND READING. Hebrews 1:1-6

***For to which of the angels did God ever say:
“You are my son; this day I have begotten you”?***

To
our ancestors
God spoke in various and partial ways. Then,

God spoke directly through his Son, who is the imprint of
his being, the radiance of his glory, through whom he
created the universe and by whom he sustains
all things in the word. Oh yes, he took
down the wall when he brought
his firstborn into the world

and said to the babe
in the manger,

“You are my son; this day I have begotten you.”

O Lord, let us listen,
help us hear.

Anne Osdieck

REFLECTION:

God has willed to share our human condition to the point of making himself one of us in the person of Jesus, who is true man and true God. But even more surprising, is that Jesus becomes man not in an ideal world, an idyllic [one], but in this real world, marked by so many things, good and bad, marked by divisions, wickedness, poverty, arrogance and wars. In this way God shows that he is merciful towards humanity, and filled with love for us. He is God-with-us: do you believe this? The birth of Jesus brings us the good news that we are loved immensely and individually by God—and God not only helps us to know this love for each of us, but also gives and communicates this love to us. (Pope Francis: Excerpt from General audience December 18, 2013)

Tidings of Great Joy

The first people to experience the coming of the saviour were shepherds, those lowly, uneducated ones who lived among the animals. They were not the only ones, of course, but they were the first to welcome the saviour.

It was no accident that such lowly people would be called in first to pay homage to the saviour. It is to the lowly, after all, that Christ came first as Lord and Redeemer. The circumstances of his birth testify to that: his mother “wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the place where travellers lodged.”

Christmas is the great annual renewal of our being a Church filled with wonder at the nearness of her God. The nearer we are to our God, the nearer we should become to those lowly ones who are God’s special ones. Our challenge is to bring the good news of redemption to others. The “tidings of great joy are to be shared by the whole people“, and no one is to be left out.