



Greetings in the name of Christ!

This time of year tends to bring out the best in us. Thank God for this event in history! I love the spirit of generosity and good will that floats through these four weeks leading up to Christmas. How is it that these spiritual gifts seem to elude some of us at other times of the year? Maybe we can't even find them now in the added stress of buying gifts and keeping busy schedules. These gifts are not easily acquired nor are they easy to keep!

My father makes his annual Christmas fudge every year. I can't wait until it arrives. It always comes! It's always expected! I just don't know what day. He places the fudge in an intentional pattern of small squares nestled in cozy layers inside a wax paper lined box. I open it, gaze upon it, and just anticipate the first morsel of sweet goodness. God, I love my dad's fudge! In my odd way of looking at things; I always hope that my own limited spirit of generosity would come wrapped up in a box to be carefully taken out every time I feel the need to be generous and kind with the afterglow of good will. Unfortunately, I tend to use mine up rather quickly. (Let me tell you that fudge doesn't last long either!)

Christmas reminds us to be generous and kind. It reminds us that each one of us has a "creation installed" spiritual gift of loving kindness and good will. It just sometimes gets buried under the mounds of over-business in our daily lives and almost seems forgotten. Until a season such as this makes itself known to us each and every year! We are gently reminded not to turn on the TV or computer so quickly at the moment there is silence. Advent reminds us all of being more attentive, quiet, and watchful.

We remember winter walks of long ago, gazing up at the stars or seeing and feeling the gently falling snow; taking time to breathe deeply of life and peace. These are the moments we live for; peaceful quietness and gentle reminders that God is with us—

if we remember our connection with God through this mysterious person in the name of Jesus bar Joseph. Jesus, who literally changed the world's understanding of inclusive, all encompassing, non-institutional love that leaves out no person, place, or thing. A Jesus who told us to take care of each other and take notice of those who are hurting and alone. God gathered all of this together one particular night long ago when in some obscure, small village a child was born into the ordinariness of life. God slips in quietly beside us and gently lets us know we are valued, loved, and expected to do great things with our lives.

- ★ Please join us on Friday, **Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 or 9:00pm** for our time to come together and celebrate this wonderful event!
- ★ Please join us on **Saturday, Christmas Day, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am** for a quiet, reflective service.
- ★ We will have one **9:00am quiet service on Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**.

Let us all gather together with our generous spirits filled with good will towards ourselves, our God, and our world. We will continue to celebrate this great event each and every Sunday as best we know how.

Blessings to you and your loved ones and let us all say a special prayer for those that are no longer with us.

Serving together in Christ,

Your rector,

Krista+