

Come

2022-12-24 | CHRISTMAS EVE
REV. ZSÓFI SCHMIEDGE



READINGS

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalms 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-20

You can find the readings in NRSV and CEB translations by clicking [this link](#).

Sermon image by [Gareth Harper](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Do not be afraid. Your Saviour is born today in David's city! say the angels.

Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened, say the shepherds.

It's a sincere invitation this – "Come and see."

I want to share something with you about this Eve. There is nothing else left to do. Not right now. Not in this moment.

This moment is the moment for which we have been preparing.

This moment is why we have been engaged in different levels of busy-making: doing all those to-do lists, the running around and shopping and wrapping and baking and traveling and hustling and bustling and jingling of bells and twinkling of lights.

Strange, really, when it's all been about this particular and somewhat quieted moment right now.

I want to invite you to take this moment in, unafraid, and come and see what's happened in Bethlehem.

Goodness knows there is plenty more hustle and bustle and merrymaking to be getting on with out there. There are presents and stockings and turkeys and children and all manner of blessedly chaotic celebration yet to enjoy (or endure, as the case may be.)

But... I believe that none of you... has anything more important to do right at this exact moment than to be right here.

So... truly... come. You are invited to come, unafraid, in this moment, to see what's happened in Bethlehem.

Whoever you are, wherever you have come from, however you got here, in whatever state of being you are in: there is room for you around this manger. Pull up a bale or a bench or a bucket; come adore on bended knee - Christ the Lord, the new-born king.

Come. Grab hold of this moment, just this one.

Come, take note of your self – how precious it is to God.

Come, mark your place, breathe in and out, and be aware of the fact that the power of creation who called in to being...

Light and galaxies and stars and planets.

Water, grass, trees, and ground.

Fishes, creatures of the deep, invertebrates.

Animals, birds, insects, and microbes.

All manner and matter of creation.

And you.

Come and discover what incredibly large love letter God puts in a tiny, frail, helpless, human body.

This Incarnation, God born into the world human, roars an important message about who we are.

Who you are is important.

Who you are is worth God's time.

Who you are deserves a community to surround you and love to uplift you.

God made this incredible decision to become a fleshy human being, reaching out to every single other body so that we can all come to truly know that God doesn't abandon or ignore – God loves. We are loved. We are precious.

How utterly strange that all of that power of creation and love has chosen to be born in the most unusual of places.

A teeny, totally dependent newborn.

An infant.

Wrapped in snuggles and first-time parents' love.

And laid on a makeshift bed of hay and wood, in a manger.

To bring all creation into new relationship with the one who created it.

This is the moment where everything changes.

This child has been born to live and die so that you might have new life with God.

And, the gift of that new life is given freely.

You don't have to live up to it or dress up for it. The power of creation is wearing nothing but flesh and blood and rags and a few wisps of straw for the occasion.

This little child is here for you.

So, come.

Come to Bethlehem and see him.

Merry Christmas. Amen.