

NOT THAT FAR FROM BETHLEHEM
youtube Firefly feat. Sing and Shout Children's Choir

Underneath the stars
Just a simple man and wife
somewhere in the dark
His words cut the silent night
Take my hand,
for the child that you carry is God's own
and though it seems the road is long

We're not that far from Bethlehem
Where all our hope and joy began
For in our arms, we'll cherish Him
We're not far, from Bethlehem.

Let us celebrate
As the Christmas's go by
Learn to live our days
with our hearts near to the child
Ever drawn, ever close
To the only love that lasts
And though 2000 years have past

We're not that far from Bethlehem
Where all our hope and joy began
For when our hearts still cherish Him
We're not that far

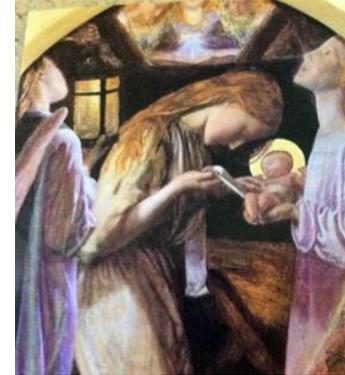
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Prayer Leader:

Ron Konkoly
12/18/2018

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NOT THAT FAR FROM BETHLEHEM



The Nativity by Arthur Hughes



Our prayer is characterized by silence ~
Be still and know that I am God!

In that silence we listen for a new word.
God is present in all our lives.
God cares for us, and
our life experiences are a source
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence
we share from our hearts.

Renew · Refresh · Refocus

14812 Lake Ave, Lakewood, OH 44107 | 216.228.7415
centeringspace@srs ofcharity.org | www.centeringspace.org

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TO PONDER: from "An Advent Meditation" James Finley

...there was no room in the inn. And so they had to go to a small stable and Jesus was born there out in the dark in the stable with the animals.

And so the lesson for us then is: what does this story teach us about how God is present in our life? To me it seems that the lesson is this:

That there was no room in the inn, but God came anyway. The fact there was no room in the inn did not stop God from being born into this world and that's the lesson, because that is always true.

Sometimes in today's world, whether it be through mass media or just the things that are going on internationally; the way we as human beings treat each other; or sometimes just in our daily life; the hectic pace that we have to keep to just stay ahead of the day's demands; along with the complexities of it all; it seems that there's no room in the inn.

That is, there's no hiatus from it all. But we know in faith that, as true as that might be, God comes anyway.

That God's being born into our life moment by moment, breath by breath as the interior richness of every little thing that happens to us and everyone around us.

...But here's the thing. In order to discover that, we have to leave the hurly-burly of the Inn and the superficiality of it all and the chatter of it all, we have to find our way, in the dark, back to the stable. We have to enter into the humility and the simplicity and the patience and the delicate nature of what is unfolding in our heart to discover where God's being born in our life.

Katagiri Roshi, a contemplative Zen master, once said that it would be so much easier if we were asked to live a simple life in a simple world, but we are asked to live a simple life in a complicated world. God is born in our heart and in the simplicity of heart as we do our best to live with integrity in a complicated world.

READING: Richard Rohr - adapted from The Cosmic Christ

All of Creation first holds God's anointing (God's "beloved" status), and then Jesus brings the message home in a personal way over thirteen billion years later.

Jesus' historical transformation allows us to more easily experience the Presence that has always been available since the beginning of time, the promise and "guarantee" of our own transformation.

In Jesus, the Timeless Christ became time bound so we could enjoy the PERSONAL DIVINE GAZE.



Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...