

### The Tiny Child to Bethlehem Came Marty Haugen

The tiny child to Bethlehem came that all of the world might turn  
to care for every creature the same, the way of compassion to learn.  
When truth becomes the light of our way, when peace is the gift we share,  
when love is more than words that we say the spirit of Jesus is there.

And see within his shining eyes a God who is near at hand,  
A God whose wisdom baffles the wise, so only the child understands.

Let all creation echo and ring in praise of the infant small!  
Now lift your heart and voices to sing, and welcome the child in us all.

### Welcome the Child part II Marty Haugen

Here is the child that will topple the mighty:  
Welcome, O child! Welcome, O child!  
Here is the child that will raise up the lowly:  
Welcome, O welcome the child in us all!

Here is the child that is hope for the nations:  
Welcome, O child! Welcome, O child!  
Here is the child who is one with the broken:  
Welcome, O welcome the child in us all!

Here is the child that is one with the helpless:  
Welcome, O child! Welcome, O child!  
Here is the child that is one with our suffering:  
Welcome, O welcome the child in us all!

Sing out the wondrous story! Sing now the wondrous birth!  
Sing how God's grace and glory shines out over all the earth!

Join in the song that resounds through the ages:  
Welcome, O song! Welcome, O song!  
Music of lovers and shepherds and sages:  
Welcome, O welcome the song in us all!

This the night our God comes to meet us  
Welcome, O God, welcome, O God!  
Deep in the silence Love comes to greet us  
Welcome, O welcome the God of us all!  
Welcome, O welcome the God of us all!  
Welcome, O welcome the child in us all!

Prayer Leader:

**Carol Kandiko, CSA**

**1 / 3 / 2023**

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### Spirit Enfleshed



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.

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## To Ponder: Bruce Sanquin

From his Christmas letter

If I had it to do over I would have preached more Christmas sermons on what Jesus' birth has to do with our birth. His birth is declared to be a miracle, but then so is every birth. Every birth is an instance of incarnation. We perhaps should focus less on THE incarnation, and more on the miracle of spirit becoming enfleshed in you and me and our children.

The story of the birth of the Christ child is meant to be a vision of how humans should treat all births. It never happened the way it is portrayed in the gospels, but it's a hell of a good story, an ethical story actually, when you hold it as an archetypal model for how all babies should be welcomed into the world. As such the story might be *a/ways* happening if we had the eyes to see and the ears to hear.

### Reminders:

- Come on time
- Honor the silence
- Share briefly from personal experience
- Listen to each other
- Discussion (cross talk) is for after the hour of prayer

## Reading: Sister Carol reflecting on the lyrics of Welcome the Child part II

Each of us, born of God's Love,  
is a child with the potential  
to shine Christ Light into our world:  
    to raise up the lowly,  
    bring hope to each other,  
    accept and bless our own brokenness,  
    helplessness and suffering ...

May we believe  
    and experience  
        and share  
            and celebrate  
all that we are in You,  
    God of Mystery, Creator of All!

Sharing. . .  
    a word...  
        a phrase...  
            a reflection...