

## ***Christmas Eve Meditation Moment***

Today and tomorrow are the highpoints of the Christmas Season; on this evening we remember and celebrate the birth of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. In our homes we scrub and cook and prepare if company is coming. But imagine our frenzied preparations if we knew royalty were stopping by?

Well, in the Christ Child royalty is stopping by each and every one of us. Martin Luther of 16<sup>th</sup> Century Reformation fame put it this way:

*This is what is meant by “Thy king cometh.” You do not seek him but he seeks you. You do not find him, he finds you.*

This is what we in the Church call the Gospel, the Good News: that in Jesus, born of Mary in Bethlehem, God comes among us all, seeking a relationship in which we are called to lives of thanksgiving and gratitude for our blessings, service to the neighbor, and worship of our saving God.

Yet God does not expect us to be perfect people; God comes to each of us ***just as we are***, and invites us into this relationship. Our response to this compassionate God is the opening of our hearts to God’s truth, love, joy and peace.

*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors. St. Luke 2:14*

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. St. John*  
11:27

*Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying  
heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. St. Matthew*  
11:28

The Good News of the Christian Church is that God does, indeed, come among us, to dwell with us and to offer hope for all the difficulties that life throws at us.

At Beautiful Savior we recognize that the heart of God is one of compassion towards the entire Creation: people and the environment. We gather around God's Word and the Sacraments (baptism and communion) so that together we can live out our calling:

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9*

The Christmas lights that surround us this evening are never extinguished, for they bring hope, meaning and purpose to us because Jesus is the Light of the World.

**Prayer:** Most gracious and loving God, we offer on this holy night our deepest gratitude for the gift of Jesus. Help us ever to be his follower, grow in faith, and be a little Christ to our neighbor in need. Amen

## Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;  
2 Flocks were sleep-ing, shep-herds keep-ing vig - il till the morn-ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift-ly wing-ing, an - gels sing-ing, bells are ring-ing, tid - ings bring-ing:  
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic-ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.  
Music: WZLOBIE/1JZ/Y, Polish carol  
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## *Sing Us a Song*

Sing us a song the people said  
For the music of Christmas is in our heads  
Give us a text familiar and dear  
Give us a tune to bring the cheer  
Of a season with dreams of hope and love  
Honoring the Christ who came from above.

So with festive rejoicing the song was performed  
Music and words all in elegant form  
Horns, bells, and organs added their sound  
Giving great joy to folk all around  
To ring a season with dreams of hope and love  
Honoring the Christ who came from above.

Nature and folk met friends and kin,  
The pow'r of the muse was still within  
Giving to each the sweetest emotion  
Blended with faith and fervent devotion  
Throughout a season with dreams of hope and love  
Pondering the Christ who came from above.  
So in this season with dreams of hope and love  
May you be blessed by the Christ from above.

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By Ken Medema who was born almost totally blind in 1943. A classically trained pianist through Braille music, Ken is a prolific song writer and performer whose creative improvisations and innovative compositions have been delighting audiences for over 50 years.