

## **Meditation - 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021 – No Room at the Inn – Born in a Stable**

Every year, I find there are things that resonate for us today in the scripture readings recounting Jesus' birth more than 2000 years ago.

**Luke 2, 1-7** So Joseph went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David...While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

**Luke 2, 8-14** There were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks by night...the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people...Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord... And the company of angels praised God... "Glory to God in the highest. And on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests."

So the shepherds hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger... When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child...

**Matthew 2.10- 11**The Magi – When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him...

This year, when life is so difficult for so many through out the world, there is consolation in the experiences of Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus.

Christ, whose parents travelled far from home just before his birth, journeyed through an occupied country.

When they arrived at Bethlehem they could find no room at the inn and our saviour was born in a humble stable. So many in our world, make dangerous journeys in an attempt to make a better life for themselves and their children, to our and other wealthy countries.

Are they made welcome?

Like Jesus's family these refugees are often escaping persecution and oppression. In many cases they are fleeing from war and famine. We need to be opening our hearts and giving them safe shelter.

We remember at Christmas, all those living on the streets of our towns and cities, and we give thanks for those who are fed through the Food Banks. We are so conscious of the plight of the homeless at this time because of the requests for donations for the work of Shelter, Crisis and St Martin's in the Fields and other wonderful charities, but poverty exists here and worldwide **all** the year amidst obscene wealth.

Jesus came to love and give hope to mankind and we can peel away all the sorrow, the pain and the inequality and return, find once again, the simplicity which he offered us, to love our neighbour and all men.

And we can, despite all the difficulties in our society and world, despite the ravages of the coronavirus and the selfishness of governments, praise and thank him with hearts filled with joy, and keep asking him to enlighten our world.

Father, as we near the end of our journey to the stable of your birth, we take heart, knowing that like the Shepherds we will be astounded by your light, like the Wisemen, we can follow the star to the manger and experience the joy and hope that your birth brings to all.

Because of the gift of your Son  
We shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace  
And the mountains and the hills shall break forth before us.

**In the Bleak Midwinter (2 recordings)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEimlObz6QE>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p08mn1g5>

May the Christ Child bless us all this Christmas and may you and those close to you, find love, peace and health in your homes.

With love to you all  
Jenny

