

Devotion, Week of December 22, 2024
Rev. Jeanne Simpson

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guest room. Luke 2:7

The illumination from the lights of hope, peace and joy is now joined with the light of love breaking into our darkness. Part of our darkness is our failure to recognize our limits, even boasting as if we were the masters of our own destinies. Yet we are all graced with a life we did not earn. We live our life standing so much on the shoulders of others. And as we face our own mortality, we cannot control or master death.

Jesus, however, loved us by entering our darkened world and humbly taking on our human form. He was wrapped in bands of cloth by his mother Mary. He was laid in a manger, where animals are fed, in the side of the homestead that we would think of as a barn. The King of Kings came humbly into this world, and he died in humiliation on a cross. He entered into the fullness of our humanity with all our human limits. But in so doing, his light of love shines in the darkness.

There is so much divine greatness in this firstborn son. He does not renounce our humanity but rather embraces it, even in all its weakness. His coming shines God's gracious and glorious light of love over all our darkness so that we need not boast anymore in ourselves but in him.

Yours in Christ,

from The Light of Grace

Jeanne