

Christmas Message to Wesley and St James Community

Dear Friends,

My usual Christmas letter was not to be-but here's a little message.

Christmas brings us beauty and joy and community, good will, kindness, generosity, and much, much, more.

But that's not the whole story. This festive season is not immune to troubles, of all kinds, present or in our memories. I've experienced this. And I've seen it, year after year.

Hard times, when they come, can make us feel very separate - outside looking in at happier scenes. But truly we don't neatly divide into those having a hard time and those having a wonderful time. Most of us have both good time and bad times in our lives. That's the human condition- changeable, and vulnerable. Jesus was born into that same condition and felt it as we do.

These Advent Sundays we hear very human stories: full of waiting, watching, hoping, longing, fearing, not knowing. And then comes the birth- in the dark night, a couple alone, far from home, with no place to go- outsiders, looking in at happy scenes they aren't part of.

And yet Light is born into the world, that world. And the first to see it are humble shepherds, outsiders, poor, with nothing to bring to the manger. Nothing but open hearts.

Whatever is going on for you and me, that's what we have too: open hearts: open to love, open to joy, open to tears, even to heartbreak, and open to the loving heart of the Divine, full of compassion for each one of us as we are, as our world is. Here and now.

I invite you to bring those open hearts with you to worship services/contemplative gatherings here or wherever you are, or wherever you can glimpse the Light and contact Love born for you- yes, you, as you are.

We follow with just a few notices - first the Solstice, Christmas Communion, Christmas Eve and Day, and December 30 - and afterwards other notices you can look at later. Remember that there will be no office time or Cooperator next week. If you need me, I'm around- just call or text or email.

May Love light the way for you and your loved ones in this season and beyond!

Jane

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