



SEEDS

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Christmas 2006

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I love Christmas!

I'm the one that endures the affectionate mocking of my kids when they hear me humming *Deck the Halls* all year 'round. It isn't wise to admit it, but I *do* feel a surge of joy when I see the merchants put out Christmas decorations in October. I know I should rue the commercialism of it all but truth is I love the twinkling lights enlivening the winter's darkness. I love it that a child's birth continues to call sinners and saints alike into a community of goodwill and generosity. I love the profound truth that whenever God comes, it makes our sad hearts happy.



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God comes in the Christmas story through a baby who will live out the heart of God's seamlessly in the life of a man, Jesus. Who can parse the mystery of what it would mean to be fully God and fully human? What I *do* know is that the Divine entered into time and space, culture and circumstances—to show us the truth of who we are and who God is. To bridge the gap between what we are experiencing and what we were meant to be. To empower us to take our place as co-restorers of a world gone awry.

Jesus is a gift of God's coming. Jesus is God-made-accessible. We call it the Incarnation—God-made-flesh. In Jesus we see . . .

God's love enter into that which is weak and helpless, and the angels sing.

God's presence illuminate a child, and the holy ones of Israel praise.

God's wisdom unfold in a life of faithfulness, and folks recognize the ring
of truth.

God's joy twinkle in an eye, and children scamper into God's lap and
sinners come to dinner.

God's compassion hold the gaze of the sick and troubled, and they rise
with healing in their bones.

God's tenderness weep with the broken, and forgiveness flows like a river.

God's anger flash at injustice and oppression, and the world knows the shape
of God's purposes.

Christmas isn't merely an ancient religious story that we re-enact over and over. The irrepensible



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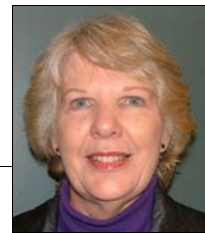
attraction of Christmas is that God is still coming—*through you and me*. Angels are still singing. Holy ones are still praising. Folks are still gravitating toward authentic truth. The sick are still rising. Sinners are still loving to come to dinner. Forgiveness is still flowing freely. And God's will is being done on earth as it is in heaven because of the Light of Christ in us. In every instance that we enflesh the heart of God in our ordinary and extraordinary moments, the Incarnational luminosity of God's love makes Christmas break out all over again. We can almost hear the heavenly choir singing:

Joy to the world! The Lord is come!

And indeed the Lord is come through the babe of Bethlehem.

The Lord is come through the likes of you and me.

Jan Wood is the Executive Director of GOOD NEWS *Associates*.
She wishes each of you a blessed Christmas and an empowered New Year!



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