

'A view from the Rectory Window – Christmas is on the way'
"In the darkness of winter, the Light of the world has come"

Scripture tells us: "The Word (God) became flesh and dwelt among us.". He stepped into the world as a child—fragile, dependent, vulnerable. The Creator chose to be carried in human arms. The Son of man chose a manger instead of a throne.

When Christ was born, the world was not peaceful. People lived under roman occupation. Families carried fear. For us it is the same today – may not be the fear of military occupation/war but still fear – fear of being cold, hungry or alone. And yet, in the dark, God placed a light. A light of hope in the birth of Christ.

The shepherds were not powerful people. They were not the ruling elite. They were ordinary people working on an ordinary night. **And to them**, the angel said: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy." For us today Christmas holds the same message. To the worried: Do not be afraid. To the tired: Do not be afraid. To the lonely or grieving: Do not be afraid.

Christ does not wait for the world—or for us—to be perfect/ even particularly good. He comes into the mess, the confusion, the pain. The unfinished parts of our lives. He comes to give us peace, strength, and hope that the world cannot give. He comes to show that God's love is not distant, but present, real, and always near.

So today as it always will be, the message of Christmas is simple: There is light in our darkness, there is hope in our troubles, and there is a greater divine love when people hurt us and let us down. The light has come, the light is for all of us, the light will never go out. Jesus is God's promise that no darkness—no pain, no fear, no sorrow—is stronger than His love.

The manger leads to the cross, and the cross leads to resurrection. Love has come. Love is here. And the love of Christ will remain as a light to lead us home through the darkest times.

'In the beginning was the Word, and the word was with God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it' John 1 verses 1-5.