

A newborn baby is the central focus, wrapped in a light-colored, textured blanket. The baby is lying on a dark surface, and the background is filled with soft, out-of-focus bokeh lights in shades of white and yellow. The overall mood is warm and intimate.

Christmas 2019

A CHILD IS BORN FOR US

FROM THE READINGS

FIRST READING: The people who walked in darkness has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone ...
For there is a child born for us a son given to us ... and this is the name they give him:

Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.
Isaiah 9:2-6

SECOND READING: In our own time, the last days, God has spoken to us through his Son.
Hebrews 1:2

GOSPEL: Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

As for Mary, she treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

Luke 2:19

REFLECTIONS

It is Christmas time!

Each child has a place in God's heart from all eternity.

Pope Francis, The Joy of Love, 168

God's love has a name and a face: Jesus Christ, Jesus.

Pope Francis, Angelus, 11 August 2013

Nothing is so like God as stillness.

Meister Eckhart

Perhaps the most striking indication of how he [Jesus] saw his mission was the title he chose to use for himself. More than seventy times in the New Testament Jesus called himself, or is described as, 'The Human One' – that is a more accurate translation of the phrase usually translated as 'The Son of Man'. Anybody who wants to live a truly human life is committed to resisting everything that dehumanises people anywhere, because Jesus shows that the way to God is through being fully human.

Donal Dorr, Spirituality: Our Deepest Heart's Desire

THE SMALL CHILD IS A SIGN OF CONTRADICTION;

Paradox in a manger. To be God and to be human, to be beyond and to be within, to be the future and the not-yet. There is tension, conflict and pain in this graced glimpse of possibility. Like Jesus did, we carry a holy disturbance within us from birth to death. The infant holds the fullness of divine love in its finite presence and infinite promise.

We kneel near the baby and an awareness of our undreamt-of destiny awakens in us. We sense a beckoning horizon as yet invisible and uncertain. We are like people trying to remember the dream from which we have just awoken. The Christmas stories and hymns are told and sung to remind us of who we are and who we are called to be.

Daniel O'Leary, Unmasking God.



CLOSING PRAYER

Song of Quiet Trust

My God,
my heart has no lofty ambitions,
my eyes do not look too high.
I am not concerned with great affairs,
or marvels beyond my scope.

Enough for me to keep my soul tranquil and quiet,
as content as a child that has been weaned,
a child content with its mother.

My soul, rely on God, now and always! Amen.

Adapted from Psalm 131



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