

Christmas Eve 2019 - Children's Mass

Each year we look forward to Christmas and the retelling of the Christmas story - the birth of Jesus.

The Christmas story fills us with great joy because we hear the marvelous story of how God, who created all things, has such a love for us that he desired to become one of us.

The Christmas story is declaration by God that he loves us unconditionally.

We know the Christmas story so well that it may even fail to amaze us.

Yes, we should all be amazed by what God is doing in the birth of Jesus.

God, who created the world and all of us becomes one with us in the birth of his Son Jesus. In other words, he marries (unites) himself to us for all eternity.

The birth of God as a human being is amazing in and of itself but here's another amazing thing - God comes to us not in power and majesty, but in weakness and poverty.

God comes to us as an infant. He comes to us in total weakness and dependency. He comes as a new born baby; a baby who is fragile, powerless, and, at the same time, irresistible.

New born babies are totally dependent on others for everything. At the same time, they are irresistible. Babies, especially newborns, draw us to themselves. There is something so innocent, so beautiful, so divine about babies. We want hold them, cuddle them, smell them, kiss them. They have power over us just by being babies.

I think God came to us as a fragile, dependent, and irresistible baby so that we could fall in love with Him.

If he came as an adult man in majesty and power, we would probably fear him, fear his judgement and his power.

Babies do not exercise power over others (except by being innocent and irresistible), they do not judge or condemn. They are totally open to our loving them and taking care of them.

I think that's the kind of relationship God wants to have with us. God wants us to fall in love with Him so that He can take over in our life; so that He can love us with a perfect love; so that He can hold us, cuddle us, and take care of us.

There are a lot of other indications of littleness in the Christmas story. Jesus was born in the little town of Bethlehem. He was placed in a little feeding trough for animals. God revealed Himself first to lowly shepherds. Shepherds were not highly regarded.

The birth of Jesus teaches us a great lesson about God. For God real power and real greatness does not come from exercising power and might over others. Real greatness and real power in God's Kingdom is revealed through our willingness to become little and to love and serve others.

Love - true love - requires that we put others first and that we be willing to become vulnerable. Divine love is a love which requires that we die to ourselves and live for others.

So, what is the message and meaning of Christmas? To become like infant Jesus and allow ourselves to be loved unconditionally by God our Father. And second to become little and vulnerable enough to love as God loves; to reach out to others, especially the little ones who have no one to love them. Let us not be afraid to love. The Kingdom Jesus came to bring is a Kingdom of love, mercy and peace.