

Rev. Estelle Margarones, Christmas Reflection, 12/24/19, First Parish

On this Night Before Christmas, I'm going to share a few of the Christmas miracles.

The first Miracle of Christmas is that God trusts us. Jesus was *born into this world*. Even though he came to save the world from its own destructive ways, God trusted humanity enough to have Jesus enter the world helpless and dependent, bringing with him, only love.

He wasn't born into a wealthy, powerful, or prestigious family. He wasn't next in line for a worldly throne. He was born into a messy world, and while it happened a long, long time ago in a place far, far away, it wasn't all that different than right here and right now. The world Jesus was born into was one with oppressors and oppressed, a world where some had fame and fortune and others were voiceless and marginalized.

I expect that, as a child Jesus knew what it was like not to have the name brand sneakers or the latest iphone. As an adolescent, I expect that Jesus knew what it was like to help in the kitchen and in his stepfather's shop. As an adult, I expect that Jesus knew what it was like to travel town to town on foot, seeking work, living paycheck to paycheck.

Jesus means Savior. He's also called Emmanuel which means God-With-Us. When Jesus became incarnate, God was no longer out of reach, but literally available to our grasp. He lived as one of us so he has firsthand experience of what it means to be human. He understands.

As he provided miraculous healings for those that the doctors couldn't (or wouldn't) help, his fame spread via word of mouth. Even when Jesus got the invitations to spend time with the 'in crowd', he never forgot those left outside. Jesus has always been for everyone.

The Miracle of Christmas is that the angels brought the news of Christ's birth, not first to royalty, but to the working men the shepherds, tending their flocks.

The Miracle of Christmas is that even when there's no room at the inn, God shows up anyway.

The miracle of Christmas is that light always overcomes darkness. It doesn't mean that there is no darkness in our lives and our world; but that the light always shows the way and offers a path out of the dark.

The miracle of Christmas is that Jesus came here to teach us The Way and when we follow Him, we can bring hope, peace, joy and love into the world. Each of us has that power and *Christ trusts us with his holy work*.

When you leave here tonight, look up. May the stars in the night sky remind you of one special star that shone long ago. May the light in the sky always remind you of the

Miracle of Christmas. Many years ago, Jesus brought heaven to earth. When we shine his love and his light, we can do the same. Blessed be and amen.