

Christmas Eve 2024

Wayne Waibel – 12/24/2024

You never know from what corner of your mind will come understanding, or purpose, or resolution, or content. But those elements of living will come. There's no stopping it.

Flawed humans in a broken world are nothing new. This is why every year in the dead of winter we pause and remember that unto us a child is born. Unto us a gift is given, which is Christ the Lord.

In the pausing to reflect and appreciate there is often profound joy and abiding love. But there is also curiosity and wonder and those things of our childhood we've all but forgotten.

We see it in the eyes of our grandchildren now, and it is a marvel to behold. The unabashed delight of a child opening gifts or gazing at spectacular Christmas scenes, transport us back to a time when all the world was our playground. And it was fresh and adventurous and wonder filled.

What happened?

Well, there were the 60's – then the 70's – and on and on the world turned and churned and burned and chewed us up until we finally emerged tainted, and scarred, and worn.

And every year – we return to a celebration of the birth of our Lord. For some it's a fitting end to a proper year. For others it is a hopeful beginning for better times ahead. But for all – it is the promise of eternal life because God decided to bless us with a child.

This child grew up in a time of blood and dying. He threw Himself headlong into the fray with fearless determination. All He was and all He did was embody the love for God and neighbor that completely overwhelmed the violence and oppression of His time - and ours.

Make no mistake. He loves and teaches and endures to this day. We have the rare privilege to witness God's grace even in the face of suffering; the untimely loss of loved ones, the visible bleakness of humanity. And we need to lean into it – not shy away.

The foundations have been laid. The die is cast. The kingdom of God is at hand. We are still able to find peace and good will toward all – no exceptions. This is our time of awakening – of setting aside the clamor of modern life for a few moments and revel in the glory shown in the birth of a child.

May this child fill your hearts with his hope and your minds with his peace.

May this child inspire your imagination and motivate your will to make a difference in a broken world in accordance with his blessings. Amen.