The Blessings of Christmas

By Rev. Diane Dowgiert, December 24, 2018

The story we tell on this night need not be literally true to contain truth. Each element of the nativity story tells us something true about ourselves and the blessing that is our life. The story has us prepare to welcome a divine child, the Christ child, born of light and love, the spark of divinity that lives in each of us, remembering that each night a child is born is a holy night.

On this night, we set aside the rush of the season to consider what star it is that guides us on the journey through life, what signs of hope and promise point the way to the light of God, which is the light of Love.

We still our minds long enough to hear the voices of angels and their messages of peace and goodwill.

We who are fortunate, make our way to a stable of shelter, a place of peace and acceptance and there, make a place of welcome for friends and loved ones, for visitors and strangers who come from afar.

There we prepare a manger in our hearts, lined with the straw that is our life, a harvest of memories, some sweet and tender, some bitter and hard – a place to lay the wholeness, the holiness of our lives.

What gifts await, if only we open ourselves enough to receive them? – gifts of friendship, of thankfulness, of joy, of kindness, of tenderness and contentment?

From this place of open-heartedness, what gifts are you ready to give? – gifts of time and attention, of love and forgiveness, the gift of your own growth and learning?

Let us prepare our hearts for the blessings of Christmas. In this time of darkness, there is a growing light, a light that comes from that spark of the divine that lives in each of us.

As we pass the light among us, may we remember the blessings of Christmas. May we commit ourselves to carrying these blessings forward into the world.