



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“‘Tis the season to be jolly” the song goes, and with all the artificial excitement generated by the marketing departments of various businesses and super stores, it’s all too easy to forget what we are actually celebrating. Many folks are not feeling very jolly this season since they are engaged in a struggle to survive and keep a roof over their head.

That is why the Christmas message is so important year after year. In the midst of every human situation, every circumstance, we can look to the babe of Bethlehem and say “I am not in this alone.”

I recently read Eugene Peterson’s introduction to Genesis in “The Message” and would like to share it with you, because it is so basic to our faith:

“First God. God is the subject of life. God is foundational for living. If we don’t have a sense of the primacy of God, we will never get it right, get life right, get *our* lives right. Not God at the margins; not God as an option; not God on the weekends. God at center and circumference; God first and last; God. God. God.”

This quote was meant for Genesis. But it covers more than that. It points us to the God-center which provides a strong foundation throughout the seasons our life.

Christmas is not meant to be cute. It is meant to direct us toward God, born into our world. I enjoy the greenery, the evergreen tree decked with ornaments and candy canes, I admire the beautifully packaged boxes that are destined to be a delight to the giver and receiver alike. I love a white Christmas and picturesque New England villages. In short, I love all the stuff and imagery of Christmas. But more than that, I love the fact that Christ was born and lived among us to give you and me a new chance at life.

Let’s celebrate together on December 24 and join the choir of angels, singing
“Gloria in Excelsis Deo.”

Peace and joy to you,

Pastor Dagmar

