

Connecting New

December, 2016

If you have ever visited a newborn, you know that the first question everyone asks is "Can I hold the baby?". This month I share a Christmas poem and painting that offers a fresh take on the Christmas story and its relevance to us.

Our religious images convey direct and subconscious theological messages. I doubt that you have ever seen a nativity scene that did not have baby Jesus lying alone and untouched in the manger. Yet, I question that the Word became flesh only to remain untouched and worshipped from a distance. Instead, I believe that Jesus came precisely that we may hold him close to our hearts and together bask in the love of God.

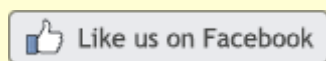
Wisdom Figures

Three wise women payed homage to the one month old infant,
with welcome and warmth,
desire to comfort and caress,
offering another taste of safe and secure.
And the gifts they brought,
those precious gifts they brought,
could only be completely received over a life time,
the gift of acceptance -
acceptance of what is unique,
both dark and light, remarkable and regrettable,
the gift of refuge -
refuge from a world cruel and harsh
that could lead him to grow calloused of heart and spirit,
and the gift of challenge -
challenge to risk and to grow into the fullness of himself,
to live safely and securely in the midst of adventure and peril.



May each of us spend time this Christmas cradling the love of God incarnate, may we then share that love with the world anew, and may we serve well our role as wisdom figures to others.

Peace and Blessings,
Clarence



Clarence Heller is a spiritual director, poet, and dreamer whose writing and paintings are inspired through prayerful reflection.

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