

Becoming human- giving glory. 25 December\_2018.

**(PP1) Becoming human- giving glory x Christ Day Tuesday 25 December\_2018.**

During this mornings talk I will ask you to think about and reflect on 3 things, Firstly we hear 2 Gospel readings about the birth of Jesus.

**READ:** (2 readers: seek to see in each case whose perspectives the passages seem to look through. Joseph and Mary which Gospel)

**Matthew 1:18- 25 and**

**Luke 2: 1-7.**

**Both speak of the BIRTHday of the same baby. But it is perhaps true to say that Matthew with his strongly Jewish patriarchal view writes featuring Joseph naming the child and Luke whose whole Gospel raises the contemporary profile of women features Mary more strongly?**

**Luke 2: 7** *She gave birth to her first-born son, wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger – there was no room for them in the guest chamber.*

**Matthew 1: 25** *And Joseph named him Jesus.*

Earlier in Advent I made a suggestion - ONE thought/ idea to ponder throughout a busy and perhaps dark time. Mine was: **Christmas is a celebration that Jesus Christ came into the world to fix something that is broken in us and the world.**



**(PP2)**

**Secondly: Ask you to chat with your neighbour and decide: WHAT IMPORTANT MESSAGE/ TRUTHS ARE CONTAINED IN THE CHRISTMAS STORY AS IT IS TOLD BY THE GOSPEL WRITERS.....sharing time. Included comments like – it's about JESUS. It's about God's love ++++++**

- There is pain as well as joy in the world
- The high and the low are called to see the baby in the manger
- People are in transit and migration for all sorts of reasons (they went back to their home tribes and towns/ regions because they had already migrated

- The powerful (Romans and Herod) and powerless view Jesus from different perspectives
- The importance of ancestry, history and roots that shape the way we are
- Jesus coming had significance for all nations not just Israel

**Thirdly: What message is for me in the Christmas Story that I need to hear and remember in the NOW?**

**Pause.....in silence...reflect on own and take time at home.**

<p><b>Me:</b> JESUS comes at the right time and in the right place and in the right way. Therefore...</p>
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**Miss quotes or uncompleted quotes:** *GOD moves in a mysterious way.... his wonders to perform...*

It was written by *Cowper* in 1773 as a poem entitled "Light Shining out of Darkness", The poem is the likely source for the phrase "**God moves in mysterious ways**", although the first line of the poem actually runs "**God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform**"; He plants **His** footsteps in the sea And rides upon the ...(Written before the onset of a depressive illness with *John 13: 7* as accompanying text.

*God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform;  
He plants His footsteps in the sea  
And rides upon the storm.*

*Deep in unfathomable mines  
Of never failing skill  
He treasures up His bright designs  
And works His sov'reign will.*

*Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;  
The clouds ye so much dread  
Are big with mercy and shall break  
In blessings on your head.*

*Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,  
But trust Him for His grace;  
Behind a frowning providence  
He hides a smiling face.*

*His purposes will ripen fast,  
Unfolding every hour;  
The bud may have a bitter taste,  
But sweet will be the flow'r.*

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*Blind unbelief is sure to err  
And scan His work in vain;  
God is His own interpreter,  
And He will make it plain.*

The first line of the hymn has become an [adage](#) or saying, encouraging a person to trust God's greater wisdom in the face of trouble or inexplicable events, and is referenced in many literary works.

Christmas is a celebration of a deep mystery – God became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ.

**Life's events can also be mysterious or confusing and so for me it is vital to believe that : JESUS comes at the right time and in the right place and in the right way.**