

Heart ♥ to ♥ Heart



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Christmas Day 2022

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1st Reading: Isaiah 62: 11-12

2nd Reading: Timothy 3: 4-7

Gospel: Luke 2: 15-20



Christmas: the greatest surprise of all . . .

- ❖ Aren't we surprised at how God works through ordinary people like Mary and Joseph to give the world the greatest gift possible?

Jesus, the Christ.

- ❖ Aren't we surprised at who God chooses as the first human messengers of Jesus' birth?

*Lowly, uneducated, poor, on the margins of society,
nameless shepherds with no influence whatsoever.*

- ❖ Aren't we surprised at who the child was?

One of us in all ways, except sin.

- ❖ Aren't we surprised by Jesus' deep desire for us?

*To know him more intimately,
to love him more intensely and
to follow him more closely.*

Haven't there always been surprises surrounding Christmas? I remember wishing for and longing for some special things to happen for Christmas. I remember waiting with joyful anticipation for them to come, to be a reality.

I have become certain that such longings, hopes are also true for God. God is deeply, totally in love with each one of us. This is **the message** of Christmas. And that is the greatest surprise of all: *Christmas is God's love story*. Our world was turned upside down some 2000 years ago when God's message was delivered to the world in Jesus: "God so loved the world..." And that love will never, ever stop---it will continue to be so until we finally allow that love to engulf our world personally and collectively.

—Margaret Johnson, OSU
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