

Four weeks till Christmas!

Christmas ... a time with so many associations, not the least of which is Gift giving... Gifts of a commercial nature... and then the other gifts. The ones harder to wrap up in a bow, but precious. Unbelievably precious.
..Jesus, given as a gift to us humans by God and then there are the wise men who bring gifts of gold, frankincense and Myrrh to the Child.

Gold was always easy for me to understand .. practical *and* shiny!
Frankincense and Myrrh are a bit more difficult from our modern perspective. But maybe not all Gifts need to be practical and functional, maybe some are beautiful exactly because they are *not* expected. This can make them memorable, too.

But what about the gift of the Christ child, given by God for us.
What kind of a gift is that?

I am not sure the Christ child is practical or functional; I am also not sure if it was always nice to look at or to be listened to ... they do usually smell good .. though the stable was probably not helpful in that regard.

So what Gift is that?????

It is the greatest gift of all, because it shows us that the most important things in life, can start out small and fragile and helpless. Then, given the right circumstances...love, they can grow.

It's a Gift that shows us how to turn hatred into love.
A Gift that shows us how to turn discord into union
And despair into hope.
It brings us from darkness into light
and from sadness into joy.
Out of death into Life!

And the way this child accomplished this was in growing up and becoming a role model for God's love., showing us what God's love means and how we all can get to God through this love - practicing this love.

Christmas is our yearly reminder to let this Love of God be born in us.
Christmas is the reminder to make room for God's Love to be born in us.

Love is something that grows like a child from little vulnerable beginnings.

Love is not suddenly overnight grown up ...

It needs, like a child, a place to be born

In the Inn there was no room .. a stable will do. Love doesn't need the fanciest environment. It can grow wherever it is cared for, nurtured and taken in with open arms.

It needs time to grow .. continuous nurturing and caring and then eventually become a force that can turn hatred into love, injury into pardon, discord into union, despair into hope, darkness into light and sadness into joy!

That gift from God is given to us to let it grow in our hearts and minds.

In that sense Christmas is the reminder for us every year to give that love of God room in our hearts to grow and in that sense to let Christ be born in us.

Let me end with a nice gift giving suggestion for the upcoming weeks: and it won't cost any gold.

I think the nicest gift for God would be to find some room in us so that more and more of God's love can be born in us.