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# Christmas Eve Meditation

on Luke 2:4–20

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**::: ZERO :::**

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*A Christmas Eve meditation...*

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**::: ONE :::**

**BECAUSE THERE WAS  
NO PLACE...**

Now it is Christmas—  
finally, suddenly, expectedly.

We have heard famous words from the bible,  
telling and explaining the story of God arriving  
in this world.

He came—from his realm into the created  
world—as a child, an infant.

But when he was to be born there was no  
place—no place in the guest room.

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When God was born into this world, he had no place among those who were created in his image.

How many still have no place? How many do we still lock out? And how much do we so lock out our God?

When God was born into this world, his place was in the manger, the food stand for the animals.

This is so poor—but will be a sign to the shepherds.

**::: TWO :::**

**THIS WILL BE A SIGN...**

There are the angels. Angels—messengers from God.

How strange: messengers delivering the divine message that God himself will be found in poverty—in a food stand, so inappropriate for a newborn.

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Is God himself not inappropriate, appearing as a baby? What madness is going on here?

But behold, –indeed this is a sign.

Right from the beginning God is among the poor –and dependent on...

those who can identify him,  
those who care about him,  
those who want him to grow,  
those who worship him.

Yes, indeed, this is a sign.

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*Interlude: “Away in a manger”*

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**::: THREE :::**

**AND ALL WERE AMAZED...**

So far there were only words,  
words by the angels,  
words by the shepherds.

But those who gather at the manger look so much further, believe so much further.

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Those who gather at the manger are all amazed.

When you stand on the edge of Grand Canyon you are amazed.

When you focus the light of a candle in the dark, you are amazed.

When you hear the choir of angels you are amazed.

When you see this little one in the manger you are amazed.

All of them had their own revelation... Joseph, Mary, and the shepherds. And now all falls in place. All the revelations fall in place... the angels' choir and the angel's voice in the chamber.

Here, they have all come together and discover the divinity of this little one—revealed to all of them in a different way.

We come together with our own revelations... but only when we listen to each other we will see that things fall in place.

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When we come together and share, that's when God is found, that's how we will be amazed. Amazed that God is so much more than what he is to me.

We need to listen—and we will be amazed.

∴ **FOUR** ∴

**THEY RETURNED...**

The shepherds *returned*, glorifying, and praising God for all they had heard and seen.

Mary and Joseph—and the baby—*returned*.

The angels *returned*.

We will *return*. We always *return*—from where we glorify, and praise God to where we live every day's life.

It is so easy to lose the faith that love will prevail—in every day's fights and the world's wars.

It is so easy that our amazement will be covered—with every day's errands and the world's pace.

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It is so easy that hope gets lost—in every day's news and the world's crisis.

But how could we be silent?  
And not speak about our faith, our amazement,  
our hope?

How could we be silent?  
And not speak about this little one who finally  
conquered death and brought eternal life.

How could we be silent?  
And not speak about this light that shines in  
the darkness?

We can't and we won't!

So...

*Sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.  
Sing to the LORD, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.  
Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples.*

*Psalms 96:1–3*

Amen.