

Christmas Day—Year C  
Isaiah 52:7-10  
Psalm 98  
Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)  
John 1:1-14

*An amazing thing happened last night.* Somewhere in the **dark of the night**, under **unusual and suspect circumstances**, **far from the halls of power and status**, amidst a **labor** that was surely hard, as all labor is, **a child was born**. It's easy to fall prey to the **quiet and beauty of that scene** as it has been seared into our memories—**cattle** lowing, **sheep** baa-ing, a **star** guiding and **kings** on their way from the East, working **shepherds** eager to see this thing that had taken place, a **mother** and a **father**, already head over heels in love, and a **newborn**. It's a **glorious sight**, but if we fix ourselves firmly in *nostalgia* for that lovely sight, **we will miss the truth of what has happened**.

That's why we don't stop with *Christmas Eve and the Feast of the Nativity*, but must move on to *Christmas Day and the Feast of the Incarnation*.

*An amazing thing happened last night.* A child was born, yes, always a miracle in its own right, **but even more, God slipped into our flesh**. *God took on our nature* so that we could take *God's nature into ours*. We're talking **divinity** pouring itself *fully, entirely* into our **mortal flesh filling out every nook and cranny**, finding its way into every **crack and broken place**, searching out every last fiber of **darkness and sorrow** and **filling it with light**, **molding us and shaping us more fully into a reflection of God's glory, the exact imprint of God's very being**.

*An amazing thing happened last night.* Ordinary human beings completely transformed into **vessels of divine grace**—now with **eyes** to gaze out upon the world with **mercy and compassion**, now with **mouths** to speak a **word of encouragement**, now with **hands** to **extend healing touch**, now with **ears** to **hear what cannot be spoken**, now with a **nose** to **sniff out injustice and catch the fragrance of righteousness**, now with a **tongue** to **taste sweet communion**, now with **heart** made new ready to play its part in the **reconciling love of God**. **No wonder the rivers are clapping their hands and the hills are ringing out with joy**.

*An amazing thing happened last night.* **God came crashing through the realms breaking into our world** with extraordinary particularity—breaking in at a **particular place** at a **particular time** into a **particular person**—to show us that *our very particularity*, the *exquisite and unique shape of our humanity*, to show us that *our flesh and all that it contains*, that *our materiality*, that *our matter matters to God*. **God came crashing through the realms** like a laser beam focused *our particularity* so that we would know that every **incarnation of life matters to God**. Every **incarnation of life** is caught up in the **dance**, **God's glory** is **ricocheting around**, **love calling to love, life calling to life, humanity and divinity forever caught up in a lover's gaze pouring out that love in every direction so that everyone and everything may find their place in that love**.

*An amazing thing happened last night. **God slipped into our flesh.** You can't leave the stable the same as you came. **You are dripping with divinity, radiant as the Son.** Go into the world as the **Godbearer that you are** and be the **vessel of grace and blessing and love that God has made you to be.** Be the **sentinel** and call all the world's attention to this **unfathomable good news**—“*God has taken up residence in you, God calls you home, the place where God desires to live and love and thrive. You are holy, and you are whole.*”*

*An amazing thing happened last night, and we'll spend the rest of our lives learning how to live with this much **divinity in our flesh.***

*An amazing thing happened last night, but this morning we know, it's not a one-and-done; **God is forever wed to us, and we to God**—the **glory of this dance** has only just begun. Amen.*

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