

Wilderness Words



Spirit of the Wilderness

Weekly News—December 23, 2010

Vicar Notes:

“What do you want for Christmas?” That’s the question Santa asks the children who get to see him at the mall. But seriously, what do you want for Christmas?

Most of us have reached a stage when we are (well, mainly....) beyond wanting stuff. But I believe that at some level we still have a sense of nostalgia for the “magic of Christmas”—even if we never really experienced it! That pressure to make the “magic of Christmas,” happen, the sense of pressure to give people what they want for Christmas can be a terrible burden, especially on mothers.

I believe that we mistake that nostalgia; we think it’s about something we can create if we can just get the sights, sounds, smells, tastes and feelings right. Instead that longing is what C. S. Lewis called a longing for joy, and is a God-given longing. At some deep level, he would argue, we are built for joy. We’ve had occasional fleeting experiences of it, and we’re always trying to re-create it, for ourselves and others.

That is what many of us “want for Christmas”: joy. But we want something deeper than the fleeting magic which too soon becomes a sense of let down.

As we gather Christmas Eve, expecting the “magic” we may well find that instead of the fleeting magic, we find a deeper joy in our knowledge of a God who has chosen to be Emmanuel—God with us.

Most of know people who are looking for something deeper—this is a great chance to invite them to church.

Peace, Mary Ellen+



Christmas Eve

December 24th: Service at 10:00

Special music from 9:30

Bring treats to share.

Bring lanterns.