

**Thursday, December 28**

**Scripture Reading:** I Corinthians 13:4-7

Twenty centuries ago the whole world was awaiting with anxious anticipation the coming of a great ruler. They were filled with the hope that God would visit the earth in the Messiah.

When I was a little boy, my mother told me that God gave us Jesus and that Jesus came for the people who had no hope. He came among all people but especially for the poorest, bringing hope.

Luke's account of the birth of Jesus places him in a manger among livestock. It was the humblest of surroundings. All of the gospels find Jesus beginning his ministry in Galilee, which was the poorest of the regions and it was looked down upon. Jesus lived and worked among the masses or ordinary people. He came teaching of a God who created people in his own image, loving them unconditionally. He taught us to love God and to love others as we love ourselves. This great love is the foundation of all hope.

In this Advent Season, God will be in the midst of humanity, even as Jesus was. His love touches individual human lives and we shall all know hope.

*Love is patient and kind...it rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. I Corinthians 7:3*

**Prayer:** Thanks be to God who, through the love of Jesus Christ, brings us this "Hope!" Amen.

*Jim Whitaker*