

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

DO YOU SEE JESUS?

*Each year comes with its own set of joys and challenges.
Each year pushes and stretches us, moving us to grow in new
ways and shed old habits and worldviews.*

The calendar year that comes to a close in seven days has challenged and exhausted us. We have been driven into our homes and away from our loved ones and communities. We have been forced to confront anew the legacy of slavery and racism in our midst. Unable to go backward, unsure of going forward, to say the least, this year has been heavy.

As we find ourselves in this last moment of Advent today, the night has fully fallen, and we look for the dawn. In the stillness and the silence of this night, we hear the prophecy of Zechariah as a whisper:

*Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
for he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of his servant David.*

*In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of
death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

LUKE 1: 68-69, 78-79



Consider for a moment the child in the manger. Our Savior does not come in armor. The child is not arrayed in political power or strength. The might of the Savior is in his vulnerability. Now and at the cross, it will be his vulnerability that will show us how to live, love and be saved.

On this quiet Christmas Eve, one that may not look like those of our past, it is the truth and promise of freedom for all of God's people and the support and care of God's tender compassion that breaks over us like the dawn. Let the child in the manger guide our feet past this shadow of death into the ways of peace.

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