

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

If you would, please allow your imaginations take flight with me for a moment. After he completed his missions, the angel Gabriel got back to heaven and rushed up to God and said, “I’ve got good news and I’ve got bad news.” God said, “Well, give me the good news first.”

“The good news is,” said Gabriel, “mission accomplished. I’ve visited those people you told me to visit. I told them what you told me to tell them. They heard your word.”

God said, “So what’s the bad news?”

“The bad news,” the angel sad, “is that those people down there on earth are terrified of you. Every time I visited someone I had to start it off by saying, ‘Fear not!’ because they were so frightened that you were even sending messages to them.”

God said to the angel, “That’s the reason I have to carry out the plan I’ve made.” “You see,” he said, “I need to go to earth because my people are so frightened. They are so full of fear that I’ve got to show them that I love them and they don’t have to be frightened of me.”

Gabriel thought about that for a minute and then asked, “Well, how are you going to overcome their fear?”

God said, “There’s only one thing on earth that people are not afraid of—a little baby. My people are not afraid of a baby. When a baby is born they rejoice and give thanks without fear because a baby in their lives is one of the few things they’re not afraid of. So, I will go to earth. I will become a little baby, and they will receive me with no fear at all, because who could be afraid of a little baby?”

So, God acted in the only way God could act without overwhelming us and scaring us with his power and his might. God became a tiny, new-born baby. Christmas is an act of God. In Christmas God acted in the only way God could have acted. And, in Christmas God gave to us the greatest gift God could give us—God told us who we are... “to those who accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation, not by human choice nor by a man’s decision, but of God.

It is the miracle of Christmas, isn’t it? Fear not! As a new-born loves those who care for it, so our God loves us. As a parent loves his or her new-born child, so our God loves us. Fear not!

“Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”

As we ponder this gift of Christmas, God born in time, Jesus the Christ, hear the voice of Gabriel who spoke to Mary and Joseph and the shepherds in the field speak now to your heart, “Fear not!” Our God has come to dwell with us. We have nothing to fear.

Merry Christmas!