



Christmas comes gently  
to the waiting world  
and offers the gift

*of Peace.*

It all happened in a most remarkable moment ... a moment like no other ...

We have heard it said that every mother counts the fingers and toes of her newborn child... to make sure they're all there.

But I wonder if Mary realized those tiny hands that were curled around her fingers were the same hands that had formed mankind? Those little feet were the same feet that had walked on streets of gold and been worshiped by angels. That tiny infant voice had once spoken worlds into existence.

On that first Christmas morning when she kissed her newborn child, Mary wasn't just kissing a baby – she was kissing the face of God. Divinity arrived. Heaven opened herself and placed her most precious One in the arms of a young teenage girl. The omnipotent, in one instant, became flesh and blood.

Each year in our minds eye ... through pageants, the scriptures and Christmas Carols ... our hectic lives *in some way* become suspended, and still, and oddly peace-filled...

We enter the story, yet again, approaching the manger wanting to see for ourselves ... 'the Truth' of what happened on that starry, starry night long ago in Bethlehem.

Have you ever noticed that no matter what our story in life has been ... at this time of year, a deep longing wells up within us, and we wonder ...

At this time of year, we also love to be with the ones we love. So does God. Between him and us there was a distance – a great span. And he couldn't bear it. So he did something about it. He came to be with us.

A young Mary looks into the face of the baby. Her son. Her Lord. His Majesty. She can't take her eyes off him. She remembers the words of the angel. "His kingdom will never end."

The sleeping child Mary held on that night long ago, is the great I AM; and with him came the gift of love, peace, hope and joy.

"I am with you always," Jesus said, "to the very end of the age."  
He is with us. God is with us. In that, receive your blessing; and give praise.

Merry Christmas!

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Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace. Luke 2:14