

“Any Room for Christ?”
Isaiah 27:6; Acts 10:34-36;
Luke 2:1-7

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In the scripture we just read, Peter is the one recognizing that God shows no partiality. God invites everybody, and he is Lord of all. It is wonderful to be reminded of that as we go into Christmas, as Jesus comes to be among us.

It was as I was reminded by the children’s play that we are all accepted and all invited to be God’s children that I thought about Jesus coming and not finding a place, knowing what it is like to be one who is a refugee, to be one who is lost, to be one who comes and no one gathers him in. It made me think about our continued ways in which we might open the door or not. Is there room in our inn or not? Is there room in our hearts for him?

It is as I think about that again this year I am reminded that God invites us all, but it’s an invitation and in some ways he asks in return for that invitation from us to invite him into our lives to reside with us, to open our hearts and our lives to him. And then there’s that promise that as we do that we will be changed. The world will change for us.

As we’ve been going through Advent, I’ve been reminded over and over again of how when we do open our lives to God, as we allow Jesus to come in, as we recognize God’s presence with us that those words of Mary describe how the world is changed, how it turns with us as we receive him.

In the middle of the Magnificat, she says:

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm. He has scattered the proud and the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

It is as we open our hearts to him and allow his presence to be with us again that we are changed. As we do that, we can be the loving hearts that enthrone him.

We don’t need a whole lot more this morning. The children have taught us and the scriptures teach us. Let us do as it says in “What Child Is This”: *The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. Amen.*