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First Sunday after Christmas Year C



Common Lectionary:

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalms 148

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

The choice of this text for the Sunday after Christmas day is a wise one: such a momentous occasion as Luke's description of the birth of Jesus. There has been displacement and shepherds and gifts and a child born in the *kataluma* of kinsfolk.

And now we hear of this family in the midst of misunderstanding [they are REAL]. We are each strangers to each other — we do not need virgin births and angels to find ourselves existing across gulfs of understanding. And to be brought into the reality of this event is a comfort for the ordinary everyday of our lives. Luke's line "And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor" is open to interpretation. It could simply be a way of indicating that time is, once again, about to move on, and we will next encounter Jesus almost two decades older. Or, it could be a gentle way of indicating that Jesus had some learning to do: about wisdom, about consideration, about walking in the ways of favor with the people around him. Both of those readings yield important insights about the human

condition, and about the audacity of the incarnation: somebody was born and grew and learnt and we understand this somebody to be Immanuel, God with us. He loved and was loved. He misunderstood and he caused misunderstanding. And he grew, in wisdom and years; in divine and human favor.

Response

Think of the everyday conflicts that you have encountered this Christmas week. Reflecting on them, how can you wrap them into the everyday of life?

Sometimes you might be conflicted about your conflicts, other times nonchalant about them — are there ways you can prepare to greet the conflicts of your life with a deeper wisdom? For some that might be a calm, a spark of love or amusement. For others that might be a quiet resistance, a determination to not be undone by the things that threaten to undo us.

What is the wisdom that is beckoning you as you navigate the conflicts that are part of your everyday life?

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*McLaren Macomb nurses, doctors provide Christmas gifts for family. Among those from McLaren Macomb hospital's emergency room donating gifts to a local family in need are*

*emergency-room nurse Sarah Hunger, from left, nurse Mandy Collins, nurse Dale Toney, nurse Maggie Frank, nurse Alicia Cameron and her two sons, Ely and Elliott, and Dr. James Larkin.*

Dave and Terry (members of First United Church of Christ Richmond) Hunger's daughter Sarah began this program. That certainly is 'loving kindness' in action.

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Quote for your week...

One of the realities we're all called to go through is to move from repulsion to compassion and from compassion to wonderment. **Mother Teresa**

Enjoy ALL of the 12 Days of Christmas. You are blessed and a blessing!