

Devotional for Christmas Eve

From “Bless the Advent We Actually Have” by Kate Bowler & the Everything Happens Project.
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An Architecture of Love

Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ... Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

—2 SAMUEL 7:5,11 (NRSV)



All of us are builders at heart. As kids we build forts from cardboard. We huddle under blankets thrown over tables. We revel in the discovery of what our hands can make with just Play-Doh or Lego. And so, when King David decided it was time to build God a house for worship (2 Samuel 7:5,11), God turns the tables. God promises that David and his descendants will build a house that would be a strong refuge forever, one built on the tiniest of frames. The child Jesus, born in a stable of the house and lineage of David, would be the sign and the promise of a Kingdom where truth reigns, where hope is reborn.

Christmas Eve is the call to all of us who long to come home. To be where someone loves us best of all. Where we belong. And that is exactly what God has built for us. An architecture of love whose beauty is deep enough, immense enough for all of us to crawl into with all of our needs and our confusion, our longings and our fears. Big enough to encompass the whole world. Because God's house of love has come to reconfigure our reality. Though we can't see the whole of it, in coming to earth God is showing us what love is, and the truth that God will not abandon us, nor this good earth. For look! There in the animal's feeding trough lies a baby king with healing in his wings.

REFLECT

1- Light a candle and read out loud Luke 2:1-7. Offer words of thanksgiving for

the many ways Jesus is the light of the world.

BLESSING

“Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?”—Matthew 11:3, ESV

*God, we are waiting for love, not the simple kind
or the sweep-you-off-your-feet kind, but the absurd kind.*

*The kind wrapped in rags,
resting in a bucket of animal feed. Love enough to save us all.*

*Blessed are we who look for Love
deeper, fuller, truer—than we have ever known, than we could have ever hoped
for.*

*Blessed are we who seek you, the light that dawned so long ago in that dark
stable.*

Love given. Love received.

Receive this gift, dear one. Love has come for you.

From *The Lives We Actually Have* (p.
222)

LISTEN

Locate your favorite Christmas carol on YouTube or a CD. As you listen to the song, reflect on what makes this song your favorite.

WORSHIP www.heywardst.church or You Tube Heyward St. Church

Please join us in person or on the live stream on Sundays at 10:30 am.