

Thought for the Week – Chris Walton

Advent and Christmas are, above all, times for believing – believing that God is faithfully working his purpose out. It takes faith because he creates, works and redeems in an unexpected way, from an unexpected beginning.

The glory of God is displayed in the vulnerability of a child. The power and might of God entrusted to a baby for whom survival depends on our careful nurture and protection, that is: acceptance and affirmation, encouragement and empowerment. In this new life is the promise, the creativity, the hope and the energy for God's future.

Yet also in the child there is the mystery of availability. God enfleshed his Spirit in the child Jesus. This is the new reality available to us and all creation: good news to the poor, healing for the broken hearted, announcing freedom to captives, caring for the needs of all who mourn, producing messages of joy rather than doom, a gentle and generous heart instead of destruction (Isaiah 65.1-9).

So this is our vision and mission born in this child: to foster the availability and the vulnerability of the spirit of the child in children, and in us all and so restore the connections and relationships with self, others, the earth and God himself.

“Make ready for the Christ whose smile – like lightning – sets free the song of everlasting glory that now sleeps in your paper flesh – like dynamite”

(Thomas Merton)