

Dear Friends in Christ:

While tastes and opinions are as varied as the people who hold them, everyone can agree that there is great beauty in the world. We Christians are always looking for beauty in the world because, as we say in the Creed each week, we believe that “through Him (Christ) *all* things came to be.” And that means that there is a beauty in our world that somehow incorporates even the “ugly” things of life into a *greater* beauty that we can’t see with our earthly eyes. That is, we can’t see things through God’s eyes just yet; but at Christmas God becomes incarnate as a human being so that we might see the unity of all creation in Him. As God the Father sees the creation He made through the eyes of His newborn Son, we in turn try to see the Father through the Son.

If we want to better discover the beauty of all that God has made, then we need to remember that the humanity of Christ is part of that Creation, too. In fact, Humanity is the *greatest* and *most* beautiful part of God’s creation! But not because we humans are great “in and of ourselves.” After all, if we could see an angel, for instance, its beauty would far eclipse that of any human being. *But God didn’t choose to express His own beauty through an angel. Instead, He chose to express it through a human being; and He did it in the most intimate way possible...He became one of us!*

Every Advent and Christmas calls each one of us to share in that beauty of Christ; and to become, in the words of St. Paul: “holy and blameless in Christ.” By His grace and mercy we can each become something beautiful for God...something beautiful in Christ. We blossom into that beauty with every act of kindness and compassion and forgiveness and love. To show care and concern for someone else, in fact, is simply an act of human kindness. In other words, you don’t have to be a person of faith to do those things. But *if* we do them out of a sense of reverence and out of love for Christ, then our act becomes *more* than an act of simple kindness...it becomes an act of eternal worship and prayer! So, let’s spend a little time gazing at the beauty of the newborn Christ in His crib this Christmas. That little image of the baby Jesus (in its simple beauty) can help us to better understand the unity of all things, the beauty of all things, and the worth of every human being...because they all “came to be” through that same precious Child. Blessed Christmas everyone!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fr. Muf".

P.S. A word or two regarding masks at Mass. As you may have noticed, there has been a growing trend in recent weeks of less folks wearing face coverings. This is simply a reminder that both the state and the Bishop’s mandates are still in effect. While we are not equipped to police the mandates at St. Gall, we do ask that you make an effort to abide by them. This Christmas season, especially, we will welcome many visitors (and returning worshippers) to the church, and many of them may feel uncomfortable attending otherwise. And we, of course, want everyone to feel welcome! For the sake of the peace-of-mind of as many folks as possible, then, I ask that you prayerfully consider your role in all of that. Thank you for your prayers and understanding, and for helping us to do the best we can to find our way through these challenging times!