

January 3, 2020
Christmas 2

How We Begin

Rev. Emma Chattin
Preaching

First Reading ~ *John 1:1-5, 10-14*

In the beginning there was the Word;
The Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
The Word was present to God from the beginning.
Through the Word all things came into being,
and apart from the Word nothing came into being
that has come into being.
In the Word was life,
and that life was humanity's light-
a Light that shines in the darkness,
a light that the darkness has never overtaken.

The Word was in the world
and although the world was made through the Word,
the world didn't recognize it.
Although the Word came into its own realm,
the Word's own people didn't accept it.
Yet any who did accept the Word,
who believed in that Name,
were empowered to become children of God-
children born not of natural descent,
nor urge of flesh
not human will-
but born of God.

And the Word became flesh
and stayed for a little while among us;
we saw the Word's glory-
the favor and position a parent gives an only child-
filled with grace,
filled with truth.

Second Reading

~ adapted from "It Is Not Over", by Ann Weems in *Kneeling In Bethlehem*

It is not over,
this birthing.

There are always newer skies
into which God can throw stars.

When we begin to think
that we can predict the Advent of God,
that we can box and frame the Christ
in a stable in Bethlehem,
that's just the time
that God will be born
in a place we can't imagine
and won't believe.

Those who wait for God
watch with their hearts and not their eyes,
listening,
always listening
for angel words.