

# The Purple Corner

## December 2010

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Isaiah 9:6

This verse and the story of how our Lord and Savior came into the world should make us mindful

of judging the gift by its wrapping. Reading Isaiah and then fast forwarding to the New Testament story of Jesus' birth causes one to be in awe. The same little baby born in a manger among the animals is the same person described in the passage above. The child whose parents could not check into the local inn for a comfortable bed is the same one who is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. Wow!

Such a humble beginning for such an important person and yet that is the way it was for the Son of God. The Lord of Lords and King of Kings had no brightly wrapped baby gifts from a baby shower given in his honor, no beautiful baby crib, blue blanket to keep him snug and no downy pillow upon which to lay his head. There was no freshly painted or decorated nursery to which Mary and Joseph could bring him. When it came time for Mary to give birth to our firstborn son she had no choice but to wrap him in bands of cloth, and lay him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

If you were to wake up on Christmas morning, look under the tree and find a gift wrapped in swaddling clothes or maybe crumbled up newspaper how would you respond?

Would you mutter under your breath that you don't want that one? Would you look for the biggest and the brightest wrapped present with the biggest and prettiest bow? Would you think to yourself, nothing good could be in such a common wrapping?

Does this in any way remind you of the question of the religious leaders long ago who asked, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Never mind their question and their response to Jesus, what are you saying about him today? How are you celebrating the miraculous birth, life and gift of Jesus Christ the Messiah? Is it he you think about when you say Merry Christmas? When someone asks you what Christmas is all about, is it he you proclaim as the reason for the season? Is there room for him in your heart and life today or will he again need to find another place to lay his head?

Merry Christmas,

Rev. Marguerite Lee