

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2020

“SO THIS IS LOVE PART 6”

By Rev. Joanna Dietz

*For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.*

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. ~ Isaiah 9:6-7 (NRSV)

It's a boy! Such joy is reflected in these three small words. There is hope and promise as to who this child will become. Watching each tiny movement brings love and excitement.

When we read this passage from Isaiah we oftentimes jump ahead to how Mary and Joseph must have felt holding this tiny bundle of God. The love radiating off Mary and toward the Son of God would have been intense.

But it's important to hear the story behind the story of this passage. We as Christians like to consider this passage a foreshadowing of the coming of Jesus. But this was actually written originally as a coronation poem for another king, well before Jesus' time. We see the end before the beginning – a time where this great King will bring an end to great suffering.

And this is important to reflect on from the king in Isaiah's time, to the kingship of Jesus, and even into our own day. In none of these times do we see the actual end. Sadly, war and oppression continue. But this poem brings us hope – there will be an end to violence. A King is present to bring justice and righteousness. And this comes through the Lord of hosts, who loves us all beyond our wildest imagination. Our job is to hold on; to keep hoping, to continue loving our community and beyond in ways that reflect the enormous love of God to our world. For unto us a child IS born. Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

Prayer: Loving God, we rejoice in the coming of the one who is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Amen.

Thought for the Day: How do I continue in hope, faith, joy, and love in a world that sometimes only seems to offer the opposite?