**Reflection Wednesday Advent week 3 – 2020**

Isaiah gives us a very clear understanding of who he believes God to be in no uncertain terms. Jesus, as always, is always much cagier. In fact, he avoids making any claims about who he is, leaving it up to us to decide. Don’t ever let anyone say that you were forced into accepting Jesus as the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus, therefore, asks the disciples of John to tell him what they have seen and heard leaving John the Baptist to make up his own mind also. Maybe that is why Jesus came to us as a small helpless baby, utterly dependent on us to care for him, protect him and nurture him. This shows his immense trust in us to do this, although Mary and Joseph are the ones we should thank for doing this. Only God would have the trust and love to place himself completely onto our hands. That is a tremendous honour and shows God’s great belief in us. This is also why Christmas is so important. Again and again, Jesus reminds us that he places himself and his future completely into our hands. Only a true friend would do that. How will you respond??

**Once in a Manger**

Once in a manger, a long time ago,  
before there was Santa and reindeer and snow,  
a star shone down on humble beginnings below  
of a baby just born who the world would soon know.

Never before had there been such a sight.  
Would the Son of a King have to suffer this plight?  
Aren't there armies to lead? Aren't there battles to fight?  
Shouldn't He conquer the world and demand His birth right?

No, this frail little infant asleep in the hay  
would change the whole world with the words He would say.  
Not about power or demanding His way,  
but mercy and loving and forgiving God's way.

For only through humbleness would the battle be won  
as shown by the actions of God's only true Son.  
Who gave up His life for the sins of everyone,  
who saved the whole world when His journey was done.

Many years have now passed since that night long ago  
and now we have Santa and reindeer and snow.  
But down in our hearts the true meaning we know,  
it is the birth of that child that makes Christmas so. **(Tom Krause)**

* I like birthdays, but I think too many can kill you.
* How do pickles celebrate their birthdays? They relish the moment.
* What did the bald guy say when he was given a comb for his birthday? *Thanks, I’ll never part with it.*
* What do penguins sing on a birthday: Freeze a jolly good fellow!!