

Reflection Monday 4th Week Advent 20th Dec 2021

The season leading up to the nativity is all about Life. Jesus, the life of the world, comes to us. It is a life given, received and shared. Mary gave us her Son that we, too, might share in his life as she shared in his as he grew up. Giving birth always needs to be shared with others, which makes Christmas such a wonder, so filled with joy and song. There are echoes of *Gaudete* of *Alleluias* of goodness and love everywhere.

Remember the star that led the strangers to Jesus. Stars can also be people, members of our family or our friends, in the people we encounter who open us to the presence of God like the star of the nativity story.

The Star Still Shines (Mary Jo Matthews)

*Oh, star set high in a winter sky
by God's almighty **hand**
stretch forth your light and shine on us
and on people in every **land**.
In hearts, renew the flame that drew
proud Magi to an Infant's **birth** -
the first crusade when a humble maid
gave God to the hungry **earth**.
Slow the pace of men who race
for coins of this world's **minting**.
From the measure spanned by a Baby's hand
pours golden wealth **unstinting**.
Though people may lift the barren gift,
rich incense clouds the **air**.
When bread and cup once more raise up
the Flesh and Bone of **prayer**.
And the blood not dry and the battle cry
of the wars that are never **won**
seem but as loss 'neath the tall dark cross
and the myrrh that anoints God's **Son**.
The gifts of today could never pay
for a stall in a barren **manger**
but the star still shines, and its golden lines
light the feet of the weary **stranger**.*

Today I pulled one of the CTRL keys from my keyboard and was shocked to find myself looking down at the entire universe: stars, planets, black holes, the whole thing was right there beneath my keyboard. I was so shocked I called a friend in to show her. After five minutes of gazing into totality, she turned to me and said: **“Don't worry, it seems you have everything under control here.”**