

Reflection Monday 3rd January 2022

We, who believe, are children of God St John tells us. What more could we ever want? Quite rightly, John goes on to say that we would want live more and more as God would want us to live in order to live up to our calling; partly out of gratitude but also out of dignity and the honour with which God has blessed us. Since this honour is offered to everyone, we would want to treat everyone with the greatest dignity, respect and honour. God became incarnate in Jesus Christ and Jesus made it possible for God to become incarnate in us. Since God speaks to us through his Word and that Word lives within us, God speaks to us through all those we encounter. When we listen to people, as we do in our synodal conversations, we become more aware, more sensitive to how God speaks to us though others and hopefully how God speaks to others though us. As we begin this New Year, let us seek the presence of God in new ways and release that presence in the world.

*God has not promised skies always blue,
flower-strewn pathways all our lives through;
God has not promised sun without rain,
joy without sorrow, peace without pain.
God has not promised we shall not know
toil and temptation, trouble and woe;
God has not told us we shall not bear
many a burden, many a care.
God has not promised smooth roads and wide,
swift, easy travel, needing no guide;
never a mountain, rocky and steep,
never a river, turbid and deep.
But God has promised strength for the day,
rest for the labourer, light for the way,
grace for the trials, help from above,
unfailing sympathy, undying love.*

—Annie Johnson Flint