

**“ ‘Tis the Season ”**  
**A Reflection for the Sunday after Christmas**  
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Hebrews 1.1-4

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‘Tis the season to be . . . jolly? Filled? Fatigued? The season when all is calm and bright? Or, hectic and chaotic? What season is it? What season is it, for you?

It is a season of holidays. Not just Christmas. For Jews, Hanukkah ended this year on December 24. Many African-Canadians and Americans started celebrated Kwanza on Boxing Day. ‘Tis the season for many celebrations.

Many continued celebrating Shopping on Boxing Day. The commercial season stretches from November through to New Year’s Day, generating more than \$600 billion in spending.

‘Tis the season of many seasons. What season is it, for you?

We Christians follow a peculiar calendar. We started a new year about a month before January 1, with Advent. For four weeks, we tiptoe toward Christmas. Some of us want to rush ahead. We can’t wait to unwrap the decorations, baking and carols. Others among us prefer to hold back, to spend time in the waiting and anticipating. Advent puts a break on our rushing.

Advent is like a short pregnancy. We can’t rush through it, even if we want to. The baby comes when the baby comes! The time does help us get ready – if getting ready is even possible – for when the baby comes and everything changes.

Then, we get to Christmas. We celebrate! The Baby is here!

Then what?

Caleb was born in early February. We were in the middle of a northern Ontario snow storm. Rather than send Barb by ambulance to the nearest “birthing” hospital (90 minutes away), the doctor decided to deliver her in town. So Caleb became the first baby born in the Hornepayne Hospital in two years!

In the days following, they were in no rush to send Barb and Caleb home. They set up a cot for me in the room. The nursing staff enjoyed having a baby to watch through the night. The cleaning staff seemed to give extra attention to our room.

And we could spend time starting to know our son, adoring him.

So much lay ahead, a whole lifetime. For the moment, though, there were just the four of us (Rachel couldn't get enough of her brother too!)

In the Christian Calendar, Christmas is not just one day. It is a season. Any guesses how long the season is? Twelve Days. Yes, the Twelve Days of Christmas.<sup>1</sup>

The Twelve Days are for having fun. We continue to celebrate the arrival of Jesus among us. In him, God has come to us. We heard it at the start of the Letter to the Hebrews: God has come to us in person, in the form of Jesus the Son. Angels are great (if not a bit scary, when you think about it!) Prophets are wonderful (but also upsetting, if you listen closely to what they say about how we've been living.) But now, no intermediaries, no go-betweens. Jesus, the light of God's glory. Glory is the fullness of who God is, and now we see God in Jesus. Jesus, the imprint of God's being, God's signature.

The Twelve days can be for adoration. Like Barb and me, getting to know Caleb. Sure, we had a lot to do for him. Still, he was our focus. And he fascinated us. (Still does!)

What season is this for you?

Can I invite you to make some time, each day, for adoration? To spend time in the presence of Jesus. In prayer, focusing on him. Maybe in one of the Gospels of his life. Not so much trying to understand him or know more about him (though that is always good). Simply giving thanks for him.

And to wonder that, in Jesus, God has drawn close. Close to the whole world, and close to you.

Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> By the way, the "12 Days of Christmas" song is a delightful bit of silliness. It's a playful memory game; I can never remember much after the "five golden rings." There is an idea that each day represents some aspect of Christian, and specifically Roman Catholic theologies. This theory originated in 1979 with Canadian hymnologist, Hugh McKeller. He who later acknowledged that these were meanings he had come up with himself. So it is just a silly song, and there is nothing wrong with that!) See [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Twelve\\_Days\\_of\\_Christmas\\_\(song\)#Meanings\\_of\\_the\\_gifts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Twelve_Days_of_Christmas_(song)#Meanings_of_the_gifts)