



## Advent 2018 Reflection

### THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD

If you've been following my Ministry Letters or if you receive the alumni e-newsletter with my reflections, you know that I like using and telling stories. Stories that truly show, if we look carefully enough with open eyes and open hearts, that God is truly at work in the normal everyday events of our lives. I began thinking about this Christmas letter around Thanksgiving, reflecting on the many stories I have that would be so fitting for this time of the year. It was only on Friday during our Advent Reconciliation Day at BSM that I realized that no story of mine was needed; we already have the greatest story ever told. A story of a God who never forgot his people although they often forgot him. A story of unconditional love and hope and promise and miracles and mysteries. A story of a young couple on the road to Bethlehem, finding no room at the inn. A story of angels and shepherds and wise men. A story of a tiny child in a manger. A story of and for us. There could be no greater story! There could be no greater love!

I pray that as we work our way toward Christmas Day and through the Christmas season, we may find the time to reflect once more on this story, taking it very personally and realizing the great love that God has for each of us. We are truly children of God, called once more to the manger to see the child that has been born to us, Son of God and Son of Mary. Come, let us adore Him! And so, we pray...

Loving God,

We live in a world that never stops, where life is governed by cell phones and email. Where we are surrounded by news of loss and pain and tragedy. Where we so desperately need to hear from you, so desperately; and yet in our hurry, we seldom take the time to listen for your voice or to see and feel your presence.

May today be different. May we take time for you in the stillness of this Advent, seeking peace of mind, of heart and of soul. Seeking a silent night; a midnight clear where angel voices once again touch the earth, announcing the fulfillment of our hope and longing - the promised one of ages.

We are not kings or shepherds or rulers; we are simply your people who truly believe that life can be better. That it is possible for your kingdom to come in this world. We will continue to live as people of hope and of promise.

For we know that "a child is born to us, a son is given to us, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, God is with us." And that has made all the difference in the world. And that has made all the difference in our lives. Amen.

As I close this final letter of 2018, please know that you are always in my thoughts and in my prayers, forever thankful for each of you who make up the Benilde-St. Margaret's family. May Christmas and the New Year of 2019 hold countless blessings. I promise to be back soon, I have so many stories left to share!

Love and Prayers,  
Mike Jeremiah

Campus Minister