



# Bishop Gohl's 2020 Christmas Message

*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory ... John 1:14*

In a year where nothing seems right, where Easter came and went with hardly a trumpet, lily or fanfare;

In a year when we have been shut in, anxious and fearful, protecting our health and the health of others;

In a year when we have prayed for the church, the world and all those in need, with renewed sincerity and refreshing truth;

In a year when the pandemic threatens to rob us of gathering with family and friends, cherished traditions and being in our beloved church homes for worship;

*The Word still becomes flesh and dwells among us.*

Indeed, behold the glory of God this Christmas:

In your sacrifices and struggles, Jesus is born;

In your generosity and creativity, Jesus is born;

In your care for the most vulnerable and the often forgotten, Jesus is born;

In your ability to name and see those that are overlooked and blend into the backgrounds of our lives, Jesus is born;

In our finding ways of *being the church* anew, even when we can't *go to church*, Jesus is born.

While, I too, am struggling with sorrow and loss this Christmas; I am also seeing you embody a God who so loves this world, that I can't help but experience the Word made flesh, dwelling among us, and shining with a simple, but resilient glory.

My love and prayers for you and yours,

Handwritten signature of Bishop Gohl in blue ink.

The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl, Jr., Bishop  
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