

Christmas Day
Luke 2: 16-20

Trinity Episcopal Church
Sonoma, California

The Work of Christmas
A Meditation by the Rev. Susan Allison-Hatch

The story says it all. Shepherds on a lonely hill. Out on the margins of their world.
Watching their sheep.

Angels suddenly appearing in the dark blue cold night sky.

bringing the shepherds the great good news that **to them** a child is born, to them a savior given.

pointing the way to a stable in Bethlehem.

Shepherds rushing to Bethlehem and seeing there, in all the stench and messiness of the stable, a baby, a savior, the king of kings and lord of lords..

Like them, we, too, rush to the stable, peer into the manger, and see the baby, the one who's come to save us, the Holy one of God.

Like them, we have a brush with the Holy.

Lives change after an encounter with the Holy One of God.

How does Paul put it, "In the twinkling of an eye, we are changed."

Nothing's quite the same.

We see ourselves in a different way.
We see our world in a different way as well.

And that's when the work of Christmas begins
the work of feeding the hungry,
freeing the oppressed,
bringing good news to the poor
and sewing the seeds of peace.

Let work of Christmas begin.