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DEC

FRIDAY | CHRISTMAS DAY
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

“While she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 1:18 NLT; “And the time came for her baby to be born.” Luke 2:6 NLT; “And there was the baby, lying in the manger.” Luke 2:16 NLT; “So the Word became human and made his home among us.” John 1:14 NLT

lectio // **Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 2:1-14**
Luke 2:15-20, John 1:1-18

This story, which is very old, will always be new. It is new because it is remembered and celebrated every year. It is not just a ritual, it is the basis of God's coolest moves - the plan is being revealed here in these scenes. All the waiting, all the promises from 700 years prior have now become a reality to us. Of course, they were always a reality to God, but we have to wait to see those realities unfold in our time and understanding. And that's been hard. However, just as these promises and realities came true, and so will all the others God had planned before time began. Now, we are again waiting, just like these folks who had heard the stories of a messiah, a redeemer, a rescuer coming the first time, now we get to experience our own waiting for this same savior to come back to make all things permanently right, whole, complete. And, although it sounds like the end of a grand finale, it is truly the beginning of a whole new and eternal story. And that story has no end.

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Dad,

You know I LOVE a great story. And this story, your story of creation and of relationship with humans is filled with beauty, wonder, drama, horrible tragedy, humor, ups and downs, failures and successes and the most amazing crescendo moments ever seen in the heavens. I am thrilled to be a part of it. Of course, I do not like my (our) sin and frailty at all! But, it is all in your plan. I am also not a fan of being stuck in a linear timeline, just saying.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root