

**Homily Preached
By Doug King
December 29th, 2002
Galatians 4:4-7**

Alright, everybody take a deep breath and exhale. We have survived another Christmas. If you are feeling as I am, you are all hustle and bustled out and washed over with weariness. We have shopped and wrapped and decorated and cooked until we just cannot shop or wrap or decorate or cook one moment more. It takes a lot of work to make a holiday like Christmas happen. And even when we push beyond the secular trappings of the holiday, advent is a season when we are called to prepare our hearts and our world for the arrival of the Christ child, no small task I assure you. I have promised myself that in this brief homily I will give you nothing to add to your to-do lists.

In our final lesson this morning, a reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians, as in all our lessons this morning, we are reminded that it is not so much about our actions but about God's actions. As busy as we are in this season it is not we who create the reason for our celebration. The incarnation of God on earth, a child of God in our midst, is the work of the divine. We may have discarded the wrapping paper but actually the season of Christmas is not over for the church. In Christmas-tide we celebrate the amazing gift given to us by God. We stand in awe of what has occurred on our behalf. We sing carols of praise and joy to God. We gather together in amazement at the implications of this birth.

During much of the year we talk of the lessons Jesus taught and we can tend to think of him as merely some wise teacher. But this morning we do not celebrate the birth of someone with a creative pedagogy. We celebrate the birth of the very Son of God, a singular overwhelming act in the history of the world. And not only does God choose to take human form on our behalf, we also receive this amazing promise that through this act we have been adopted as the children of God. We have been transformed in our relationship with the divine from one of creature and creator to one of child and parent.

We are made heirs of all the divine has to offer.

In the blink of an eye our very place in the universe has been transformed. Not because we dropped our spare change in the salvation army bucket, or bought a dozen gifts for the angel tree, or attended worship every Sunday in advent, we have been transformed by a love more powerful than the brilliance of a million suns. Without lifting a finger we have been claimed as God's very own.

You see we do not make this holiday. We may have filled our days with different ways to commemorate Christmas, but this event is all about what God has done for us. In these days of Christmas-tide let us bask in the overwhelming generosity of God's actions on our behalf. I know I promised you I would not ask you to do any more this season, but really how can we not revel in all that we have been given? Thanks be to God. Amen.