

1. Another ancient ceremony.... The 1966 Andy Williams show.
2. I would sneak and watch bits when I could. Saw it recently and it was unbelievably cheesy...but I ached for what they had.
3. ...joy, songs, silliness, and faith. (how can this be wrong? Why am I locked out of this?)
4. But what I saw was not reality, at least in part. They faced tragedy. Claudine Longet and Andy Williams divorced after 14 years of marriage. She was arrested for manslaughter, later acquitted.
5. Everyone you meet is having a bad day. Every model sees only their imperfections. Every family sees what outsiders do not see.
6. We aren't okay. We are blessed, We are the richest people in the history of the world, the most medicated, the most coddled and comfortable and...we ache for something we do not have.
7. There is a hunger in us that cannot be satisfied by food, iphones, sex or raves. Something is missing.
8. God agrees; something IS missing. So he took action.

I wrote this years ago as a meditation on the wonder and strangeness of Advent. You may share freely if it speaks to you.

He Sent A Baby

He sent a baby.
Didn't see that coming.
Oh, we knew He would send something, or someone.
And it was going to be awesome...
And terrible.
Truth be told, we deserved "terrible" more than "awesome."
For thousands of years we gave lip service
And not much else.
We worshiped ourselves, did our own thing.
We hoped for a king who would destroy our enemies
While overlooking the fact that our sins were just like theirs.
But sending a baby?
What was He thinking?
We wanted a sword swinging
Curse flinging
Doom bringing
King on a big horse.
We got a baby
Born to a not quite married girl
In a nowhere town
In a shabby room.
Maybe we weren't the only ones who didn't see that coming.
The devil didn't seem ready for it either.
I mean, none of it really makes sense.
Baby, nowhere's-ville, father goes absent
Twelve unemployed guys as his posse
Religious people opposing him
Nailed to a tree, naked, humiliated
Right in front of his mother
AWOL from the tomb a few days later.
He came as a baby.
One of us.
Walked with us.
Ate with us.
Loved us.

Told us to do what he did.
And then he told us we're good. He can boogie now.
And so he did. Straight up.
What a story.
Not what we were expecting.
But exactly what we needed.
That baby was God and King and Savior.
Who knew?
Not me.
Didn't see it coming.
Thought He come with fire and all cheesed off.
We deserved no less than hell.
He gave us heaven.
That baby. Wow.
He was more than a baby.
Glory to God in the highest.
Peace on earth.