

GOSPEL MESSAGE

January 4, 2026

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

A Glimpse of God-Made-Flesh

This gospel text is wordy to the point of feeling almost otherworldly. There's no real story here; there's no narrative to follow. To illustrate this text for children, for example, seems nearly impossible.

"The Word became flesh and lived among us" (John 1:14). How is this gospel text—this gospel truth—made manifest, here and now? Where do you see God, in the flesh, walking the earth? How do you experience God-made-flesh speaking to you, caring for you, guiding you?

Surely God is present, in the flesh, even in the unlikeliest of places—as unlikely as a baby lying in a manger. Surely God is still here today in some form or fashion. The Word is no longer flesh and living among us, at least not in the same way as when Jesus himself was walking the earth. But *we* are flesh, and *we* are here. Surely *you* are God made manifest for someone; surely *your* presence here on earth is a glorious display of the presence of God for a neighbor or friend or colleague or family member—maybe even for someone you'd never expect to name you in this way.

In baptism, God commissions us to "proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace" (*ELW*, p. 228). This is the work of the Word made flesh; this is the work of providing a glimpse of God to a world in need of grace, hope, and new life.

How blessed we are to live in the promise of God-made-flesh. How blessed we are to live in response to that promise!

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