

## GOODNESS

Scripture: John 7:40-52

December 19, 2020

**Message: And she gave birth to her first-born Son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.**

### Luke 2:7

Here is where I first met you, Lord; where most of us who grow up in the Church really take notice. In a feed box for farm-animals: You, wrapped in rags, a baby (helpless as any baby), cared for by your parents. And there it dawned on me, Lord, when, while delivering newspapers in the stillness of a late Christmas Eve, I stood before the crude plastic of a manger scene: You are God. You are God come for me. You are God come for all who will allow your great coming. You, the Almighty God, have come as a Baby. And in this first meeting I was not afraid. You came as a baby and I knew that You loved me.

There were hard things to come, Lord, hard things swiftly coming in the reading of your story; these things I slowly received. There were words from your lips revealing a divided and godless heart, words which summoned repentance. There were words as fresh to me as they were to Matthew, calling me to follow you and in that following to bear a cross. There were words which called me to an obedience that no man has a right to elicit from another. But you are not any man. You are God-in-the-flesh. Your claim is right. And it is fearsome.

But, Lord, you came first as a baby. And, so, I know that all that has come and is to come from your hand is good. You humble me because you are good. You break me because you are good. You allow no love for another to stand before or beside my love for you, because you are good.

**Prayer:** You came as a Baby, Lord, that first I might know your love. And so, in this season, I will receive you, my Lord, as the Shepherds did. As a baby. Come from the love of the Father. When the Shepherds had found you, Lord, they rejoiced and they returned to their lowly calling, new men. Amen.

---

Name: Mike Frank  
Church: Lerona United Methodist Church  
District: Southern  
Church Location: Lerona  
Email: [revfrank@aol.com](mailto:revfrank@aol.com)