Gifts for the Child

Greetings to you in the name of Christ!

I pray that your Christmas celebrations were filled with all the joy and love that the Christ child brings to each of us. On Christmas Day, my family and I traveled the well known roads to Ohio to visit with my mother’s family. During our time in Ohio we played in the snow, we exchanged gifts, and we shared in several meals around the table. At my Grandpa’s dining room table you can squeeze about 10 people around the table. When our numbers swelled past that (which was often), we would have to pull out one of the folding tables from the basement and place it at the end of the dining room table. Its always a tight fit to get around the end of the tables then, and the dining area keeps extending well into the family room. But when we get together for a meal, we think its important for everyone to have a place at the table.

In the same way, it is important for us to be willing to create space for everyone who comes to our tables. Whether that’s the literal tables we set out for meals, the Lord’s table that we receive Holy Communion from, or the more figurative places in our congregation and lives. It would be easier for my family to place extra seating in the kitchen or the open areas of the living room. But as God’s people we are not called to the easy road. We are called to the road of love, inclusion, and community. None of those are easy to enact or maintain, but our lives and our communities are better when we put in that extra effort to make space for all God’s children at the table.

May we prepare for the coming of the New Year by pulling up more chairs to our literal and figurative tables so that the love of Christ might be shared with all!

Grace and peace,

Rev. Mary Kathryn Allen