

*Christmas...and a little love...
that's not so little!*

“And an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and said:
Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid...”

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
And they shall name him Emmanuel,”
Which means,

“God is with us.”

Somehow, the Charlie Brown Christmas tree says it all
this Christmas...simple...pared down...and beautiful.

For all the fears and complications of red, orange,
yellow and lock-down zones, in a time when plans change by
the day, this Christmas might seem a little bit like a Charlie
Brown tree. But only in its potential for great beauty. The
power of Christmas will only be stronger. God's love and
indwelling spirit, only greater. Whether on zoom or in person, in matters of the heart, the child
Jesus only gets more beautiful.

This Christmas will have its own unique beauty. Like the cold, dark, lonely barn of
Bethlehem, the star shines bright, undiminished by any virus, when seen in the hearts of
loved ones next to you or online. Even as we social distance and make the hard decisions
about who we will be with and where we will be, the angel of the Lord assures us: Do not be
afraid. For unto you [surely] is born, Emmanuel, God with you!

The heavenly hosts, (*imagine those you know and love who will be part of that chorus!*)
bring tidings of great joy. They are closer than you know, friends and loved ones, beyond
count, praising God and singing: *Glory to God on high.*



Charlie Brown's tree is not little but
exquisitely beautiful because, like all of us, we are
blessed with love this Christmas. In the loneliness
of pandemic times, who, within your circle, might
feel isolated or anxious? Someone in a care facility
or nursing home? A single parent maybe alone
with children? Find that person, make that call or
drop off some cooking and help birth the child
Jesus in that human heart. Sparsity makes bare
what is necessary to birth the child Jesus at
Christmas. Like Charlie's tree, paring down the

feast, might just help us find what was lost ...and now wonderfully found. In discovered new
ways, in difficult times, a child waits to be born in the crib of our hearts, in the crib of our
families and in the crib of a very needy world.

Merry Christmas to all! Make this Christmas one to be remembered...for its unique
beauty. This incarnational event is a love extended creation-wide, excluding no one. With
smaller gatherings, and reaching out in new ways, know all creation waits for renewal and
rebirth. And we are blessed. That little Charlie Brown tree is each of us and we are
wonderfully made. [And all we need to give and receive...is a little love.](#)

Fr. Paul

