

Bethesda Episcopal Church

41 Washington Street
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
Advent III, 2011

Dear Friend,

Ever notice how so many of the things we valued yesterday are worth so little to us when we recycle them or put them out for a yard sale?

Even when looking for new things to give or get we look for the lowest price on the internet or the sales counters thus devaluing them even before we make the purchase. So where is lasting value to be found?

The reason for this season of buying and giving provides the answer. We celebrate God's gift to us of Jesus. He did so because He loves us. He wants us to know that we are so valued in His eyes that He would come among us as one of us to reveal our importance to Him and our role in His creation.

Jesus would devote his entire life to revealing how much he cares for you and me and simply wants us to believe in his saving truth for us. He came to heal and help and show us that nothing, no thing, has more value than what lies within us: a life free of things and meant to live forever in Him.

I would hope that you might see our time together at Bethesda has been a reflection of God's lasting love as He has seen us through our joys, sorrows and challenges over the years. I feel blessed to have had the privilege of serving you in this wonderful and unique parish and I am especially grateful for your love and prayers in this past year.

This has all been part of God's love for us which will never fail and lasts forever.

May your Christmas celebration be a triumph of love as you gather with family and friend in this holy time.

Faithfully yours,
Thomas T. Parke