

# *A Christmas Reflection* by Rev. Dean Bucalos of MB3



The Christmas season always strikes me as a time of contrasts. This year has been no different. I met a beautiful baby boy whose middle name is Emmanuel. His birth radically changed the lives of his loving parents. Much like the birth of Jesus changed not only the lives of Mary and Joseph but also the world in which they lived. I also shared the unexpected death of the son of a good friend and entered the shadow that loss cast upon a whole community of family and friends.

Christmas time brings us into the contrasts that compose life. The savior of the world born into poverty. Visited by magicians and shepherds and not the wealthy and the powerful. Extravagant and bountiful gifts under our Christmas trees, and cards from Angel Trees requesting presents that parents cannot afford to purchase. Such contrasts seem to be how God has framed life for us. Light and dark. Day and night. Good and evil. Rich and poor.



We are challenged to navigate that mystery and find the presence of the Holy One. At Christmas time we are reminded that if we seek God's presence, we will find it. For indeed, through all of life's contrasts, God Is With Us. Emmanuel. Radically changing our world. This Christmas, as you enter into this mystery, may you find God's presence during this season of grace and mercy.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,  
Rev. Dean Bucalos  
Executive Director, MB3

