

A Sermon for Christmas Day, Year A
Luke 2: 1-14
by Deacon Patty Minx

The Last Straw?

Has there been an event in your life when you have said “This is the last straw?” The phrase “the last straw” refers to a famous proverb about the straw that broke the camel’s back. Charles Dickens, the author of “A Christmas Carol” wrote in another novel *Dombey and Son* : “as the last straw break’s the laden camel’s back”. Dickens is referring to the breaking point each of us has in enduring another’s foolishness or failures. It is a phrase that reflects our own limitations and lack of tolerance with the unfairness of life. Yet, you and I know that there is no way a straw could break a camel’s back.

Is Christmas God’s last straw? For centuries God kept trying to convince the world to change its ways. God must have been terribly disappointed in the way humankind was living out the plan of love and peace. Then as fast as God could wink, God came up with a plan, God decided that the only way human beings could understand divine love was to become one of us. God slipped on human skin. God’s son came into the world and according to Luke’s account, Mary, His mother “wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger” (Lk. 2:7) His Son became the last straw in revealing how much God longs for us to be in love with Him. The, last straw, Jesus, becomes our second chance with God.

In this holy Season of Christmas we celebrate the belief that God cares less about last straws and more about second chances. God uses the last straws of our lives not to break our human spirit, but to make a bed for His Son to rest upon in peace. May our last straws become olive branches of peace for all that is broken in our lives and our world.