



*You will find a Babe
wrapped in swaddling cloths,
lying in a manger*

*Christmas Greetings
from the Executive Minister*

Christmas, 2021

Just above my computer, strategically placed so that each time I look up I have no choice but to see it, is a picture. The picture has four big brilliant trees with large trunks and many branches. The trees have no leaves. The picture has only black and white as its colours, and the ground is covered in snow. It a simple photo. It reminds me of standing in the woods on a still winter day, with the muffled silence that only the snow can give. It's one of those thin places. At the bottom of the picture are the words:

"Be Still, and Know that I am God"

For anyone who knows me, they know that being still is hard for me. I love the busyness of the advent and Christmas season. If I were being real, I love busy. Busy helps me to feel valued and valuable. It helps me to feel like I am making a difference. Ministry is like that; it's busy work. We have deadlines to meet, worship to plan, COVID rules to understand. We have our families and our church family who all need our love and attention. There are Christmas packages to prepare and meals to plan, and there are the unexpected (expected) emergency calls that mean all else is put aside, if but only for a moment, until we can pick them up again. And yet as much as I like busy, the gentle reminder comes as quietly as the forest snow. I look up and there it is:

"Be Still, and Know that I am God"

With each phrase; a deep breath, and I am reminded:

"Be Still, and Know that I am God"

"Be Still, and Know that I am"

"Be Still, and Know"

"Be Still"

"Be"

A reminder; our value is not in our doing, but in our being. In our being; created as beloved children of God. The birth of the Christ Child reminds us of just how deep that love really is! As Communities of Faith, as Ministry Personnel, as volunteers and as staff, your understanding of the depth of that love, is what calls you to discipleship. May the thin place of that Holy Night give you pause, to know just how much you are loved. And from that place of love may we love one another.

Faith March-MacCuish

Rev. Faith March-MacCuish

Executive Minister, UCC Regions East