



# Christmas Hope for One Another

**T**HE AUTUMN SEASON IN VERMONT BEGAN IN early September with some maples turning an unusually dull color ushering in an early beginning to fall. It seems like an unprecedented entrance into the autumn season. But as October approached suddenly the mountains began to burst into color sharing their brilliant autumnal beauty in pigments of red, gold, orange, yellow and brown.

Creation reminds us in a time of difficult questioning and amidst signs of disheartening confusion to keep hope alive and to listen deeply beneath the surface of our lives to the faithful presence of God's Spirit inviting us to birth anew.

In these days of Advent and Christmas the desire of God to journey in our human flesh through Jesus of Nazareth becomes palpable if we are willing to touch the stillness and silence of our hearts beneath winter's snow. God's Word wants to enter into our deepest desires and enable us to gift each other with love and faithfulness, with the peace, acceptance and communion with which we have been gifted.

Amidst their confusion and lack of full understanding, Mary and Joseph said a vulnerable "yes" to trust God's Word becoming enfleshed in their lives. Shepherds were astonished by the companioning music of earth and heaven. Searching magi remained faithful to their unending journey and did not hesitate to experience another way.

We are blessed by the many persons and experiences that our monastic life opens for us. In a simple way through this bulletin we want to share some of these with you.

Let us continue to pray and support one another by going beyond the fragmentation and polarization of our world to reach out to others who may not be like ourselves. Let us see beyond what may seem threatening and divisive to the possibility of understanding and pursuing another way. Let us let go of the security that makes us think we have the answers and continue to search for the common good of others as we live out the questions.

As we journey together may we "*be hope*" for one another and witness to the Wisdom of God found in the depths of creation and enfleshed in our human desire. ■

A BLESSED FEAST OF GOD'S AND OUR OWN INCARNATION  
– A JOYFUL AND HOPE-FILLED CHRISTMAS!