

The Adopted Life

Christmas Day ~ 12.25.2010

Coming Home

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not understand it or overcome it. ~ John 1:5

We cannot find our way home. We know we *have* a home; we feel it in our bones and in the depths of our souls. We search for home in food, in friendship, in marriage, in sex, and in drugs. But we do not find it because we are blind in the dark. We are always searching, always longing, but never finding.

And then one cold, dark night, a light shines. The light of heaven itself, the glory of the cosmos. It shines as a star guiding magi, an angel speaking to shepherds, and most of all it shines as a new-born child. Clothed in the darkness of the creation the light of the creation shines and is seen—but barely seen, clothed in darkness, like a poor reflection in a mirror.

We do not understand it and we cannot overcome it. Our night-blinded eyes are pierced by the pain of its brightness and yet we are drawn to it and cannot pull away. We lash out against it, with whips and crosses, but we cannot extinguish it.

It is only as this light ascends into heaven, dawning over those who live in the land of the shadow of death, that we are at last able to see: this light is both our home and the way home. This light is both what we were created for and it is what created us. This light both takes us home and tells us what home is.

We have a home but we cannot find it in the dark. So our home, who loves us, comes and finds us. The Father's Son, the Light of the Cosmos, has brought us home in himself to the Father.

~ Jonathan Stepp