

## Christmas Day 2020 – John 1:1-14

We wish all your family peace at Christmas and fresh hope for 2021!

Good news today. Christ became a human baby exactly like us – a helpless babe, then a thoughtful boy and finally a penniless preacher who died on the cross. What has it meant to you and to me to be a human being during this pandemic year we have just experienced? It may have revealed dark depths in us that we didn't know existed. It may have prompted us to acts of service, unnoticed but helping us to live with others in mind. Let us say that being human operates at three levels: the physical, the emotional and the relational.

Physically, we all have bodies. They cry for attention and want to take us over. The pandemic has made us more conscious of how fragile we are.

We live with our senses and emotions. As the virus took hold, fear became stronger. Death was too close for comfort. Hope and patience wavered. "How long, O Lord?"

Finally, we live with one another. We saw fewer people. We could no longer meet together, touch one another, sing. The people we did meet seemed to matter more. Some hibernated and became locked in loneliness. The less we left home, the less we wanted to leave it. We could have said with the psalmist, "No man cared for my soul,"

If that is being human, then Jesus became a human being. Emmanuel, God with us. Listen to some different translations. "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, full of grace and truth." "Christ became a human being and lived here on earth among us and was full of grace and loving forgiveness and truth." "The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood. Goodness inside and out. Love from start to finish."

Jesus is human! He had a body which got tired and hungry. He felt the physical pain of the whip and the nails.

Jesus is human! He had emotions. He cried in the Garden. He wept over Jerusalem. He rejoiced.

Jesus is human! He related vibrantly to human beings as well as to his Father in heaven. He looked at Peter in love after he had denied him. He stopped him from sinking into the sea.

He has been with us faltering humans in the pandemic, He has kept us one by one and not forgotten we are members of his body.

At the door of 2021 he invites us to put our hand in his. Is there more pandemic ahead? We must live one day at a time. "I am with you and will never forsake you."