

## *Christmas, 2012*

*The all powerful, eternally distant, creative source of all that is,  
Eliminated that distance with a gift of on-going love.  
He became one of us who are already created in His image,  
As an infant, born in an unlikely place called Bethlehem.  
He lived like us, grew like us, learned like us.  
He experienced joy, fulfillment, happiness,  
Loneliness, grief, betrayal, love, and friendship.  
He taught us about God and His expectation to love Him above all,  
And, surprise of surprises, to love our neighbor as ourselves.  
We are responsible for each other as He is for us.  
As He is a gift for us, so are we gifts to each other.  
The gift we are to give is the special lesson of His life.  
He taught us that the poor have a special priority.  
He taught us to hunger and thirst for justice.  
He taught us to be peacemakers to heal our wounded world.  
He taught us to use our talents to benefit each other.  
He taught us to pray, "Our Father who art in Heaven,"  
To discover ourselves in deep meaningful silence.  
He taught us to continue to create our world,  
To work with Him to redeem it.  
He taught us love and to be a friend.  
And so we celebrate His presence with us.  
We graciously accept the gift God gave us  
As we reach out as gifts to each other;  
For it is in giving that we receive.  
Raymond D. Aumack, Dec. 2012*