

**Reflection on Psalm 126 and “Kneeling in Bethlehem” Choral Celebration**

**Susan Verbrugge**

**Blacksburg Presbyterian Church**

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Song and poetry often speak much more elegantly and succinctly than words ever can, so I debated whether to stand up this morning to say anything. But, I was deeply moved by the words and music of this cantata so I just couldn't help myself.

As Lynn read just a few minutes ago, Ann Weems' poem says, most of us are not star seekers. We are going about our daily lives...going to school, driving kids to activities, going to doctor's appointments, teaching, making deals at work, eating, sleeping...but not seeking stars to follow.

My question for us is whether we, in our ordinary lives, can become star seekers. Will we recognize the light, the star, the baby in the manger when it is right before us? Will we give ourselves the option of turning away from the ordinary, turning away from the world, to notice what God might have for us in the extraordinary?

The Psalmist today cries out joy after darkness, water gushing over parched desert land, shouts of joy after torrents of tears.

When the water pours over the desert of our parched hearts, will we let it sink in? Will we allow our mouths to be filled with God's laughter and our tongues to proclaim joy? Will our tears be turned away from sorrow and into streams of joy?

God offers us Jesus Christ, life, in the most unexpected places...in the work of our hands, in the face of a stranger, in the silence of our hearts, in the story of Christmas we hear over and over, in the twinkling lights of two planets and a moon in the night sky...so many unexpected places.

Let us open our lives to meet Jesus. Will there be room in the inn of our hearts for the baby God?