**Spiritual Love Bytes - 3**

**… words and images to stir the mind and heart**

**BYTE: In computer language a small amount of information**

Hopefully, Advent led us into a deeper awareness of the presence of Christ within our lives. The Christmas Feast has now led us to celebrate the Incarnation of Christ in ourselves. What does it mean for God to be incarnated in a human person? And in what ways was this human being like us? But the truth is that Advent and Christmas alone cannot lead us deeply into these mysteries. They remind us that incarnation was always God’s plan. They teach us so much about how different God’s reign is from human power systems. But they stop at the moment of Incarnation with just a hint at the adult man this baby was to become.

And that’s why we need the Epiphany. From the glorious Feast of the Epiphany we remember that Jesus came not just as the Light of Israel but as the Light of the entire world, and we explore how Jesus reflected God’s divine glory. But the wonderful miracle of the Epiphany is that it shows us that everything we see in Jesus we can also be found in ourselves. Jesus said, *“I am the light of the world,”* but he also said *“you are the light of the world.”* And that also applies to His ‘I am’ statements. We are little incarnations, and as we see God’s glory revealed in Christ, we can learn to see the divine glory within us. And, more importantly, we can learn to allow that glory to shine out of us to enrich not just our own lives, but our world.

**\*Nativity Scene in the bombed Lutheran Church of Gaza**