

## **DECEMBER 30 ~ FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

**READINGS:** Matthew 2:13-23; Hebrews 2:10-18; Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148

### **ALL-AGE TALK**

If you're anything like me, the words that will immediately spring to mind when you think about Jesus will be words about his lordship – 'Messiah', 'Saviour', 'Lord', 'Redeemer', 'Prince of Peace', 'Mighty God', 'Emmanuel', 'eternal Word'. The result is that all too often we fail to focus on the humanity of Jesus – which is one theme of our New Testament readings.

Take the reading from the Letter to Hebrews. It talks about Jesus 'suffering' like us, about Jesus being 'tempted' like us, to point out the empathy that Jesus has for all his creation. Let me put it this way. We may be going through dark days and testing times. But Jesus can fully empathise with the dark days and testing times we are going through, because he went through dark days and testing times himself, indeed darker days and more testing times than we will ever go through ourselves. So whatever we're going through, we will never go alone.

The reading from Matthew is all about Jesus as a vulnerable human being. We often hear about Jesus protecting us, but in this instance Jesus himself is being protected by Joseph and Mary. He would have been like any other baby in that situation – vulnerable, confused, scared. He was protected so that he in turn could protect us.

***PowerPoint of a variety of faces, young and old – happy, sad, crying, laughing + 'One of us' by Joan Osborne***

“What if God were one of us...” – at the very Christmas time he was!  
– and it's this truth that's at the heart of our festivities and celebrations.