



## Holding onto Christmas

December 27, 2023

Lisa Heckman

On this week between Christmas and New Years, I share with you words from Christian poet, Ann Weems:

### Holding

The Day is here  
and we made it to Bethlehem!  
The time has come for kneeling  
and we've seen the Child!  
There is singing in the stable  
and we want desperately to hold on to it ...  
Hold on to the Star!  
and the angels!  
and the spirit of love!  
How do we hold on  
to the Christmas spirit?  
Why can't every day be Christmas?

The world mutters "Be realistic,"  
and sometimes we church people mutter too.  
On our way back from Bethlehem  
sometimes we forget  
what we've been warned about in a dream:  
to return another way.  
Once we've seen the Child,  
we're left holding hearts  
wherein angels dance  
and stars sing!  
Once we've been to Bethlehem,  
every day is Christmas!

"Holding" by Ann Weems, from *Kneeling in Bethlehem*, Westminster/John Knox Press, Louisville, 1993, p. 35.

Grace and Peace.

*Lisa*

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