“Love Knows Your Name” - Stephanie Sorge, 12.24.24

 “Christ the babe was born for you!” Christmas is a celebration of the very particular way God comes to us. We were created in love, and God hasn’t stopped loving us since. It’s hard to really hear, understand, and take to heart, that message. You are loved beyond measure. You are a blessing. God loves you, first thing in the morning, just as you are, and last thing at night, no matter what you’ve done in the intervening hours. God loves you.

 Christmas is a whole thing, isn’t it? Some of us are grateful to come here each year, to hear the story and sing the songs once more. Others of us might have been dragged here. Or maybe it’s just what you do on December 24th. I don’t know why you’re here, or how you’re doing tonight, but I do know this: God is here, for you.

 Jesus came for all of us, but Christmas reminds us that God reaches out for each of us. Did you know that, at birth, infants can best focus between 8 and 12 inches from their face? They can’t hold their heads up. They are totally reliant on human touch. And that newborn smell that many people could breathe in all day long? That’s another biological tether between a baby and its caregiver. How close does God come to you? This close. Forehead kissing close. Finger and toe counting close. All is well in the world close.

 God is with us, still. Just as close. Always drawing near. Love knows your name. So listen. Look. Sniff. Touch. And through the meal we’re about to share, taste. God is here. You are loved. Linger in this manger miracle, and carry it with you. Love knows your name. Amen.