Several folks have inquired about the poems I shared on Christmas Eve. As with others that I have shared, these poems were inspired by the works of Dr. Seuss that I treasured in my youth and with my own kids. Below is one of those poems which I think speaks not only to the season of Christmas, but also to the challenges for us in this new year.

**A BIRTH FOR THE EARTH**

The word just came in that a savior is born

In a stable at night in the cold before morn

And the one who delivered her child before day

Gently laid down the babe in the warmth of the hay

For the inn had no room; they had no place to stay.

But that is the way that the world tends to be

So concerned with the problems of me and of me

That the needs of a child who is born as a stranger

Are pushed to the side, to the edge of the manger

Where children are born to the poor and in danger.

That’s the way of the world – way back then and today

After two thousand years you would think that we’d say,

“That’s enough! All these children deserve so much more

We will care for them, love them, no matter how poor

And we’ll find a safe place for them, that is for sure!”

But we don’t! And so refugee kids are still born

In cold stables or worse in the night and the morn

And the Christ who to us came with hope in his birth

Shakes a head that is heavy and lacking in mirth

For the lessons not learned – of his birth for the earth.

~ John C. Peterson, January 12, 2016