

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
 From tender stem hath sprung!
 Of Jesse's lineage coming,
 As men of old have sung.
 It came, a flower bright,
 Amid the cold of winter,
 When half spent was the night.



עמנואל!

Behold, a virgin shall be with child,
 and shall bring forth a son, and they
 shall call his name **Emmanuel**,
 which being interpreted is, **God with
 us.**

--- *Matthew 1:23*

--Eric, Helen, Amelia, Benjamin,
 Lillian, and Faith Rasmusen

Good Things of 2017 (links and images:
<http://rasmusen.org/special/christmas/xmas2017.htm>)

1. **The Grace of Shame** (2017) by Timothy Bayly, Jürgen von Hagen, and Joseph Bayly. A critique of the evangelical view of homosexuality, with close attention to involuntary temptation.
2. **The Grand Canyon**. Truly sublime, and a well-run park.
3. **Le Roi de Fer** (1955) by Maurice Druon, first of the Cursed Kings series about the last Capets around 1300. As easy to read and gripping as Dumas.
4. **Twitter**. Not good for what people write, but for what they link to, and to keep track of links you find yourself.
5. **Bleak House (2005) Little Dorrit (2008), and Martin Chuzzlewit (1994)**, but not *Hard Times* (1994). BBC mini-serieses of the Charles Dickens novels.
6. **The Lucky Express** Chinese restaurant in Bloomington. A hole in the wall but very good food. Crowded, often. Try the Crispy Salted Chicken.
7. The IGM Forum at Chicago Booth b-school. One-question polls answering 1-5 and confidence levels 1-10 by famous economists.
8. **Python**, an all-purpose, open source, computer language for webscrapping, programming, numerical examples, symbolic mathematical analysis, statistical analysis, matrix operations, diagramming. Anaconda is an free installation and Spyder is an editor/batcher included in Anaconda that works well. See *Johansson's Introduction to Scientific Computing in Python*
9. **Hillsdale College** and the Baylor Great Books major. Some colleges are differentiating for a competitive edge and the preservation of Western civilization.
10. **Reading out loud on car trips**. We read Tony Hillerman novels in Arizona and New Mexico, just the place to do it.
11. **Dilbert.com**. Scott Adams is full of ideas about how people think.
12. **A list of good articles**, to try to make ephemera into permanent. A dozen good articles discovered this year, with web links. You need to go to <http://rasmusen.org/special/christmas/2017-articles.htm>.



The Rasmusens

2810 Dale Court, Bloomington, Indiana 47401

erasmuse61, ajanerasmusen, bwrasmusen,

flibbertigibbet9, faithrasmusen33

@gmail.com

(812) 345-8573 (Dad) (812) 219-4154 (Ben)

(812) 727-8699 (Amelia)