









Greetings to the Peolple from:

BISHOP OF PRINCE RUPERT AND YUKON

In reply to your request for an Xmas message, I must confess that I cannot send you a more cheerful message than the original one delivered by the angel on the first Xmas night, when he said: "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy that shall be to all the people, for this day is born to you in the City of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."

These words establish and define the spirit and reason of Xmas. Who could have said more and better to brighten the face of the earth? No philosopher had or could have invented such utterance. No potentate, however well intentioned, has ever thought of being able to give great joys to all his people, to the young and to the old, to the rich and to the poor, to the toiler and to the professional, yet all crave for a happiness they have not. But what no man could conceive, what no human anniversary could procure, the feast of the birth of Christ has realized without failure during the past 1928 years.

Year after year, when the angelic announcement rings in our ears, it thrills all hearts. It is welcomed by weary mortals like the casts of the desert by thirsty travelers. Its charms are fascinating. The enchanting cup it presses on our lips contains, mingled with earthly joys, a few drops of neavenly nectar, which gives a taste of celestial sweetness and power. It refreshes the burdened, invigorates the weak, cheers the downhearted. What a blessing that Xmas comes around at least once a year.

A feast of joy, Xmas must be also a feast of love; love for God and for man. In fact, how is it, and why is it, that at no other time do we see such a grand manifestation of good will among men towards relatives, friends and strangers? The human race appears at its best. It seems as if the spirit of the unspeakable love of the Babe of Bethelehem hovering over the earth were breathing love and good will, instinctively inclining men to be big and warm hearted. Xmastide will pass very quickly; may its spirit of universal brother-hood remain with us.

Glory to God and peace to men. Yes, even peace and real peace is included in the divine message. This is not the place to discuss theories on peace and explain the reasons why statesmen find it so hard to get peace and harder to keep it. Suffices to say for our purpose that peace after being banished from the earth for long centuries re-appeared on it on Xmas Day with the Prince of Peace, who alone can give it in its perfection.

In conclusion, we must ask whence and why such an abundance of blessings at this hailowed season? There is only one answer to this question, as there can be only one adequate cause for the progidious blessings. At Xmas heaven comes nearer to the earth; nay, on that day the Master of all the worlds came amongst us, to be like one of us, to exalt us, to enable us to reach a destiny of immortal glory. This is the most beneficient and always actual event which brings great joys to all the people. Therefore, to honor it this year as in the past, I earnestly say: "A merry Xmas to all."— E. M. BUNOZ.

JOHN A. SUTHERLAND, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

As one having the honor and privilege of serving a particular branch of the Christian Church, I take very great pleasure in sending out the following message to the people of Prince Rupert and district:

"This is the season of the year when greetings pass to and fro and friend remembers friend. The little ones are gathered together on the tip-toe of expectancy for what Father Christmas shall bring. Oh, that we had the child-like imagination to read the minds and hearts of these "wee tots" as they weave the web of their prooffered treasures. Santa somehow becomes very real, and woe betide the man or woman who would be so callous as to believe anything else, for it is out of such potential beliefs that pacts are made, and the true pact is always in touch with the real.

Gifts come. Well, what does it matter how they come! Only Santa has a wonderful gift of personalizing his belongings as he wends his way with silent tread to unburden himself and speak words of comfort and cheer. Bravo, children! stick to your imaginative thinking. You are deep down amongst the realities of life, while we grown-ups are only skimming the surface. Stick to your reverend Santa. Defy the world to abolish him. You have succeeded so far, and let me tell you, you will succeed to the end.

A merry Christmas to you all wherever you are and in whatsoever circumstances you are placed. Beware of the sour face; look into the mirror before meeting Santa, or he won't be pleased. Receive the gift of gifts which he brings. Ask no questions, for our Heavenly Father knows what you have need of.

To the older people who live in the matter of fact world my word would be, never forget Him Who is the greatest fact of autian history, so marvellously human and yet so divine. "To you is born this fay in the city of David a Saviou, who is Christ the Lord—born anew in every heart who is willing to serve Him and honor Him. Make for high ideals, sobriety and clean living. Now that the city is taking on a new beginning and one can sense an air of prosperity all around, what could be a greater asset to the life of the community than the working out of the Christian principle in all our relationships and in all our dealings? It is indeed the time for good cheer and happy recollections, and when these are well founded they are the very sauce of life. Fraternal greetings of the season all around."

REV. A. WILSON, FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Phillip Brooks says: "For the Christ-child Who comes is the Master of all, no palace too great, no cottage too small." The world, perhaps, will never unite upon a creed, but no matter of what race, color or tongue, all are ready to stand in wonder and adoration around the manger before the Babe of Bethlehem. No matter the sorrow or tragedy of the centuries, the returning festival never fails to warm the hearts of men, from the least to the greatest. In this we see that God is equally concerned in the good of all.

We rejoice that the song of peace and good will is echoing a ound the world today as never before. The great fellowship of believers are joining hands and stepping forward to greater service, and the loneliest and most neglected are beginning to catch the glow and joy of His coming.

Ye weary take heart, the good of God in man will yet dominate the selfish and cruel and the spirit of a little child shall lead rule s and people over all the world into that heritage of peace and brotherhood which will rise in a Alleluia of praise to God the Father.

BISHOP OF CALEDONIA

After what the world has recently gone through, we are ready to agree that the greatest of all blessings is peace. The horrors of those four dread years were so appalling that the whole world cried "Never again." Some of the great nations have been honestly trying to make that longing cry a reality, but others have not, so that all have to stand ready for such another calamity. But if it ever comes it will not be another such, but a vastly greater calamity, as the primate of all Canada recently said: "The next war will be a universal carnival of death." Recent air manoeuvres over London showed how whole cities, men, women and children, could be wiped out in a few hours." A statest man has said: "To end war you must begin with the hearts of men."

It is appropriate at this time of good will that all earnest people set their hearts right upon this matter. Each may help the great cause of world peace by bringing peace into his own life. He may forget individual dislikes, family indifferences, social jealousies, business injustices, political annomosities and national suspicions.

Let us see that in our corner of the world "brethren may dwell together in unity," so that if another world war does come we will have had no share in its cause.

Those who believe in the value of prayer may care to use the following form: "Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed, kindle, we pray Thee, in the hearts of men the true love of peace, and guide with wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility Thy Kingdom may go forward, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of Thy love. Amen."—G. A. RIX.

REV. J. B. GIBSON, ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

Once more Xmas stands before us, calling us to glad remebrance and bidding us help others to rejoice. Whatever other seasons of the year may lose their meaning as the years glide swiftly by, Xmas retains its gracious significance.

Changes necessarily come to mind, changes in our homes and in our circle of friends, changes in the world around us and in the great world afar, Customs change with each new generation. Times and seasons alter in their character and modern men strive to do things in modern ways. But in a world of endless change the Xmas spirit still sits enthroned in the human heart, producing therein many a miracle and ploving anew that love is the mightiest influence at work in the souls of men.

.Christmas means love, if it means anything. Love was born into the world long before the angel's song stirred the hearts of the humble shepherds on the Plains of Bethlehem, but never before was love so manifested as on that day when the Savior came to take His place among the sons of men. God had showered other gifts upon this earth of ours, each of them bearing the stamp of the Divine handiwork. But "in the fullness of time" He sent to the world His greatest gift, and divine love in human form was born. The first Xmas Day had dawned. The history of the race had begun anew. Hope had new strings on which to play and they gave back a joyful echo of the heavenly anthem. Love had come to dwell with men and the tidings of great joy then proclaimed still ring out today as we celebrate the anniversary of the greatest event in history.

As we turn our eyes backward to that night when the angels made the heavenly music over our Savior's birth and there flows into our hearts a new stream of loving thankfulness, what is the thought that should be uppermost? Is it not that such love demands some response from us. As He brought joy to the earth, we, too, can chase away the shadows from some path and enlighten the burden that is crushing down some child of His. If we are to be reckoned worthy of sharing His glory and His Throne, we must also be willing to give ourselves in loving service and do what in us lies to represent Him to the world. That means that wherever sorrow and trouble and need are to be found, there, too, shall we be present ministering in our Master's name and doing the work which is ever near to His Heart. In this way shall we have a new realization of what Xmas means and the joy of Xmas will flow out through us into channels of blessing to all around.

REV. W. F. PRICE, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Christmas—that means jollity, feasting, merry-making—but far more, it is an arresting challenge—it challenges generosity, for it celebrates the greatest gift from the greatest giver—"God so loved the world that He gave His Son" to be the Redeemer and friend of every human soul—and that divine generosity inspires ours. So Christmas is the season of giving presents, it rebukes selfishness, and invites good will. It calls us to think of others.

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We may be well provided for, but have we done anything to help those not so favored? And do we banish from our hearts harshness, and ill-will? And Christmas is a challenge to faith. What is the Babe of Bethlehem to us, God manifest in the flesh, Savier and Helper, or merely a name? Do we know and obey the truths He came to proclaim? Is there light in our sky because of His coming? If so, our Christmas will be joyous indeed. In that sense, I wish a "Merry Christmas" to every reader of these words.

REV. JOHN HANSON, ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Almighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Isah., 9, 6.

Thus spoke God through his prophet 740 years before the birth of Mesiah.

He was born in a lowly manger. No room for him in the inn, Luke tells us. There never has been much room for him in society or in the individual. He is generally crowded out and he does not force himself upon any one.

The prophet calls him "Wonderful," and trully, wonderful he is, and all his works are wonderful. He doeth those things which no one else has ever done. When John, in prison, sends two of his desciples to enquire of him who he was, he replied: "Go tell John what ye see and hear.' The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up. His most wonderful quality is his love for sinners. Come unto him."

It matters not in what circumstances you are, spiritually or temporally He

The Almighty God, a name to prove he is able to carry out all that is said of him, to help you in your every-day need. Everlasting Father—he is more than an earthly father in his love and care to his children.

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