

Homily. Christmas 2021.

Well, we've made it! To be honest with you there were times during this year that I wondered if we'd ever get here. But we have, and here we are! What we've come together to celebrate is the birth of the Christ-child, one of us now, one with us forever. He comes to us in our time of uncertainty, anxiety and separation, much as He did over 2000 years ago. Now, as back then, He comes to us as a gift from God, a free, unmerited present for us to unwrap, understand and welcome into ourselves.

It's Jesus who brings us together, uniting us around Him just as He did for the shepherds, the wise men and those drawn into the humble stable to witness the dawning of God's Light, brought to this Earth in His birth. Whatever Christmas means to you, maybe holidays, family, friends, children, Santa and gifts or even some quiet time alone for rest and renewal, don't forget the reason for it all; God's gift to us of His Son of Light, celebrated and received here and now, but always available to us for free everyday, everywhere in all of the joys and sorrows of our lives.

When He came to be amongst us that first Christmas the Angels of Heaven sang out their praise to God, offering greetings of peace on Earth to all people of good will. They told the news of great joy, calling ordinary women, men and children of wonder, love and trust to His crib. We sing their song in our Mass here, and we keep on singing this Good-News every day in Christ's Body, our Church. With us you are welcome, you belong, you matter. Our Christmas gift to you is your membership in our community, your belonging in this family of faith, a place for you here in your 'spiritual home' for as long as our doors are opened.

So then, Unto to us a Son has been given, so let us rejoice and be glad;
For it's by our faith, unity and togetherness that tonight, tomorrow, every
day can be a Christmas day for us, filled with of the light of God that no
selfishness, separation or darkness will ever overcome.