



Christmas Messages From the Clergy

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRISTMAS

By Rev. S. R. Colebrook, Rector of St. Paul's, Norval, St. Stephen's, Hornby, and St. John's Church, Stewarttown

Nineteen centuries ago a man and woman approached an inn at Bethlehem. They belonged to a conquered and oppressed race, far from their home, as journeys were in those days, driven under the compulsion of their masters to come to the city of their tribe to be registered. There was no room for them in the crowded lodging place. Wary and wondering they sought sanctuary in a stable. There, amidst the music of the angels, heard only by the shepherd folk upon the hills, the Saviour of the world was born to Mary.

It was a sad commentary upon our human nature that for all the warnings of the prophets and that not one was there to give welcome to the Holy Child of Hope. But mankind is ever slow to heed the voices of its prophets as we have seen too tragically in our own generation. Yet the fact of Jesus Christ cannot be avoided or denied. He has yielded a deeper influence upon the world for almost two thousand years than any other individual in that time. It is often assumed that Christendom is not really Christian; that the lives of the great majority of men and women are not consciously or visibly affected by the one time advent of the Son of God. It is not easy to measure spiritual progress either corporately or individually, and the assumption is probably only half true. But however, little regard we may have for Christ in our daily life, the fact remains, that every step of the way of life has been made easier by the heritage of the Christian centuries which comes from Christ Himself.

But Christmas is not only the commemoration of the Birthday of Christ, it is the memorial of the Visitation of God. It was God who became man, who was born on this day. It was He who became man for our sakes, and submitted of His love to the burdens and limitations of man's nature. And it is because we forget who it was that was born on the first Christmas day that we pay so little heed to His words and His will.

He was in truth, and deed a Saviour, to save men from their sins. There would have been then, as even today, little satisfaction from the release from violence and war so long as the whole nation was sick, and its people faint. Christ is more than teacher or benefactor of men. He is the Saviour, our Lord, our God, and our King. He is the one who, in our hearts, the principles of righteousness and love, is bringing peace to the troubled soul, even in the midst of the distress of nations. The gospel of the grace of God will shine more brightly for us this Christmas when we remember that unto us today and every day there is a Saviour who is Christ the Lord.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

By Rev. A. O. W. Foreman, Ballinafad, Churchill and Melville United Churches

"No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him."

Christmas is the birthday of Christ and we keep the festival in His honor. The Gospel message Jesus spoke is God's word to mankind. Jesus Christ is the highest and last exponent of God. He declares God as a more vivid sense or experience of God. To have the sense of His presence, to hear His voice speaking within of life and duty, and to walk in agreement with Him and His principles of life on the part of all people would usher in such an era of peace and friendship as the world has never known.

Christmas sets forth the truth that God can dwell in man, and man's spirit may be the dwelling-place of the Eternal Love. Therefore the highest form of society of which we have ever dreamed may be realized. For Christmas is the promise of a civilization that is to be. It is a prophetic day, looking not so much backward as forward to a time when the Christ-spirit shall away the life of men. It is a description of the future, of a new dream that is to be realized. Thou shalt call His name, Emmanuel, which is God with us.

When an earth among men of good-will is to come true, Christmas

fills us with expectancy. God speaks in Christ of a new day of righteousness and peace. It is well for us to pause to listen to the Angels' song, and to think again deeply of the message of Jesus, even though all about us are the grim facts of strife and the noise and tumult of a world at war, and pray:

"O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight."
For out of the silence comes the answer:
Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel."

GOD'S HOLY WORD

By Rev. J. E. Ostrom, Georgetown and Aton Baptist Churches

Dear Friends:
We may be reminded, profitably, of the fundamental Truth of this Season by these quotations from God's Holy Word:

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which is being interpreted, 'God with us.'" And again: "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 Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. And of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end." These words foretold the event which has given sanction and sacredness to this Christmas Season. And as the event was about to take place the Word tells us this about Him: "Thou shalt call His name Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins..." and Joseph called His name Jesus."

Here is Truth that provides comfort in sorrow, light in darkness, strength for all legitimate activities during these abnormal days. May His richest blessing be ours at this season.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE, 1941

By Rev. Arthur Leggett, Norval and Union Presbyterian Churches

"Thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins." Mat. 1:21

Christmas comes again, even to a world gripped with fearful strife and distress, and our thoughts go back to the unique event of history, when "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." Thousands upon thousands of children have been born into this weary, sin-cursed world; but never was such eagerness, welcomed with such joy, or remembered with such gratitude. After nineteen hundred years, millions of mortals, and countless myriads of immortals, as they look back upon that natal day, lift up their voices in joyful hymns of praise.

And what is the reason for this exuberant joy? It is found expressed in a name—"Thou shalt call His name JESUS,"—the name which is above every name that is named in heaven or upon earth. No name is at once so sweet and so powerful:

"How sweet the name of Jesus sounds,
In a believer's ear,
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
And drives away his fear."

It is not the only name or title He bears; but we cherish it because it expresses that aspect of His character and work which we regard with such joy, and with such love and gratitude. It signifies the reason why He came. He who was, and is, and is to be—very God of very God—took upon Himself the form of man, and came to earth a little child that He might save His people from their sins. He is the Saviour of the world.

What blackness of horror, of misery, of ugliness, of fearful bondage is wrapped up in that word, SIN! What a wreck was made of man, what a weary burden of guilt and sorrow was laid upon him, when Satan, the arch-enemy, introduced sin into the world! Could it be that we have the world's real to us? Look at treacherous, blood-stained Herod when Jesus came. Look at that wicked mob, yelling for the crucifixion of Truth, Purity and Love, when Jesus went back to the Father. Think of the awful holocaust of war! Look at our prisons and penitentiaries. Behold lives wrecked and ruined by vicious habits on every hand. And who, even of the saints of God, has not suffered from the blight of sin? Jesus came to redeem us from this curse. He has procured redemption

for every one who will receive it. He who knew no sin was made sin for us, and bore our punishment in order that we might be free, and clothed with His righteousness. "Whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord Jesus shall be saved." No wonder the angels of God repeat the great Psalm of Praise which they sang at the Nativity every third dinner repasts and is saved! No wonder the anniversary of His coming is remembered with such unbounded joy! No wonder we love the name of JESUS!

"Sweetest note in seraph song,
Sweetest name on mortal tongue,
Sweetest carol ever sung,
Jesus, blessed Jesus."

Reader, may you have a happy Christmas! May the chief cause of your joy be that you belong to Jesus, and are saved from your sins because you believe on His name! And may the Peace of God be in your heart throughout the coming year!

A WAR-TIME CHRISTMAS

By Rev. W. G. O. Thompson, St. George's Church of England, Georgetown and St. Alban's Church, Glen Williams

A war-time Christmas. The usual words and wishes seem somehow to be out of place. In so many homes there is a vacancy in the accustomed circle, because of someone in camp, or overseas. And yet, if we will recall origins, our faith is not a fair-weather business. So much of the text of the Bible, and so much of the history of the Church, breathes war, fare, crisis, uncertainty. Yet faith burned brightly, and the turning of the seasons, with the recurring occasions of the great Christmas feast, was duly and joyfully observed. So let us make the holy season of the Nativity of our Lord a happy time, even a merry time, 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 Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

The blessing of the Christ-Child be upon this countryside.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Knox Presbyterian Church, Georgetown and Limehouse Presbyterian Church

The joy which Christmas-tide brings is of two kinds: that which the Church celebrates, and that which the world may experience. The Church is not alone in her rejoicing at the birth of the Christ-child, for the whole world joins in celebrating the Advent of our Lord. And this is as it should be, for Christ came to save the world, not only the Church.

The origin of the Church's rejoicing is the knowledge that this infant Jesus is indeed the Son of God, by Whom the world was created, in Whom the world is reconciled, and through Whom the world shall be redeemed. Throughout the year, and especially during the Christmas season, the Church's rejoicing takes the form of worship and of praise, of repentance and of thanksgiving, of prayer and of works made good through faith.

The world also pays tribute to the Christ-child; "let every one receive her King." But the tribute which the world pays is an unwitting tribute: "I will be exalted among the heathen." Earth does not recognize her Lord, the world does not receive Her Lord, among them that believe not. The Name shall be glorified throughout the year, and especially during the Christmas season, the world's rejoicing takes the form of exchanges of greetings and of gifts, of eating special foods and drinking special wines, of Christmas trees and Santa Claus.

The world's rejoicing at Christmas has therefore no origin but that of the Holy Spirit of the Church. On every side we hear that "it will be a quiet Christmas this year, for many people." Indeed it will. It will be a quiet Christmas for every one whose heart is purely imitative; for every one whose heart is "falling him for fear, for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." For those, however, whose rejoicing is genuine rather than counterfeit, who are able to look up, and lift up their heads, and view the approaching redemption, such as these there will be no abatement of their joy!

CHRISTMAS 1941

By Rev. R. C. Todd, Georgetown United Church

"The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth." John 1:14

The first Christmas a drama was begun which is not yet completed. You find I am acting it out on the stage of life, where God's Word made flesh in Jesus Christ, plays the lead.

The Babe which was born that first Christmas was later crucified; the message which He proclaimed and exemplified in His living has often been drowned in barbarous clamor. His vision which He gave to His followers has often grown dim; the hope He revived has often become faint; the light which He kindled has often flickered; but the world has never forgotten Him, and His light has never gone out. And neither the crucifixion nor the noise of the world, nor the backsliding of His followers has overthrown the fact of God's indwelling in human flesh, nor the Spirit which came into our world and will continue to haunt us and convict us of sin until we make up our ally minds to incorporate HIM into our common life. If Christ has not come! Then listen in trembling to the step of the cruel Gestapo, and think of your brother, son, or husband being tortured in some loathsome concentration camp.

If Christ has not come! Then stand by and watch your little daughter enter into degradation with unnatural burdens on their backs. Breathe the air of fear, gloom and superstition.

BALLINAFAD

MRS. HARRY SHORTILL PASSED AWAY

Mrs. Harry Shortill, a resident of this community for many years, passed away at her home in the village on Thursday morning, December 19th. She was in her 75th year. She was born Agnes Catherine Barr, on the 2nd of December, the eldest daughter of the late Matthew R. Barr and Jane Thompson, and resided in Erin Township practically all her life. Nearly fifty years ago, she married Harry Shortill, who predeceased her almost two years ago. Three children blessed this union, Agnes (Mrs. A. S. McEnery), Richard and Matthew, all of whom live to mourn her loss and reverence her memory, as well as nine grandchildren, and one sister, Mrs. Jane Snyder, Toronto, two half sisters and two half brothers, who reside in Minnesota. The funeral service was held at the home, Rev. A. O. W. Foreman, her pastor, conducting the service with interment at Ballinafad cemetery. The pallbearers were Alec Thompson, William Thompson, Fred Shortill, F. W. Shortill, Lloyd McEnery and Harry Shortill (Georgetown). Flower bearers were three grandsons, A. D. McEnery, Richard and Harry Shortill. Our sympathy is extended to the bereaved family and friends.

The Sunday School Christmas party was held Friday evening in the hall. A short programme was given and games were enjoyed by the younger members. Gifts and candy were distributed, after which lunch was served to all.

CHURCH NEWS

St. George's Church
Rev. W. G. O. Thompson, Rector.
Christmas Communion:
11:45 Christmas Eve
8:00 o'clock on Christmas morning
First Sunday after Christmas (Holy Innocents):
Holy Communion
8 a.m. Sunday school 10 a.m. Matins and Litany 11 a.m. Evensong 7 p.m.

St. Alban's Church, Glen Williams
Christmas Communion: 9:30 a.m. on Christmas Day.
First Sunday after Christmas (Holy Innocents): Sunday school 2 p.m. Evensong 3 p.m.

Georgetown United Church
Rev. R. C. Todd, B.A., Minister
10 a.m. Sunday school. 11 a.m. Public worship: "Christmas in War-time!" 7 p.m. Evening devotion: "The Shepherds Returned!" Victory for Christ in 1942.

Knox Presbyterian Church
Georgetown
Rev. Chas. C. Cochrane, B.A., Minister
10:00 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class.
11:00 a.m. Public worship.
7:00 p.m. Public worship.

Limehouse Presbyterian Church
1:30 (EST) Sunday School and Bible Class.
2:30 (EST) Public worship.

Baptist Church
Minister: Rev. E. Ostrom.
Sunday: Dec. 28th; 3:00 p.m. Sunday School. Classes for all ages. 7 p.m. Public worship.

St. John's Church, Stewarttown
Rev. S. R. Colebrook, Rector.
2 p.m. Sunday school.
3 p.m. Evening prayer.

St. Stephen's Church, Hornby
11 a.m. Morning prayer.

St. Paul's Church, Norval
1:30 p.m. Sunday school.
7:30 p.m. Evening prayer.

Glen Williams United Church
R. K. Lemay, B.A.
2:00 p.m. Sunday school.
7:00 p.m. Communion service.
Come to the church in the Glen.

Holy Cross R.C. Church
Rev. Fr. V. J. Moran
1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays—Mass at 11 a.m.
2nd and 4th Sundays—Mass at 9 a.m.

Ballinafad United Church
Rev. A. O. W. Foreman, B.A.
10:00 a.m. Sunday school.
11:00 a.m. Church service

Churchill United Church
1:30 p.m. Church service.
2:30 p.m. Sunday school.

Melville United Church
2:00 p.m. Sunday school.
3:00 p.m. Church service.

See your boy made a goose-stepping link in a flesh machine, and your girl the victim of lust-impregnated brutality.

If Christ has not come! Then dash from their pedestals liberty and justice and fraternity. Throw to the four winds, truth, honour and decency. Substitute for the fair nation you have ruined by your sin, a land of aerts, cringing beneath the lash of dictators, and crushed by the wheels of war.

If Christ has not come! BUT CHRIST DID COME!

O glorious Christmas! O wonderful Day of the Lord! Hallelujah! "Christ has come! So we can sing: "God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay. Remember Christ your Saviour Was born on Christmas day. To save us all from Satan's power When we were gone astray." "O tidings of comfort and joy..."

Christmas messages from other district clergy, received too late to include in this week's issue, will appear in the Herald next week.



THROUGH this message we want to reach the many friends—old and new—who have so generously patronized us during the year. We sincerely hope we shall have more opportunities to be of service to you. To all in Georgetown we extend our wish for a Very Merry Christmas season.

BRILL'S Department Store



To One and All
Our Best Wishes
For A Very
Merry
Christmas

The Barber Floral Co.

Phone 47w Georgetown



A MERRY CHRISTMAS

To all our Friends:-
During the years we've been in business we've been lucky enough to get a lot of friends. To each of these now, we want to extend our sincerest Christmas wishes.

LICATA'S

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Christmas Greetings!



from the friendly store, where shopping is a pleasure.

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