



Greetings at Christmastide

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CHRISTMAS TIME

"They offered unto Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.—Matt. 2:11.

The first, and important fact to be lifted from this passage is that these "Wise Men" were not content to merely worship the King, or pay homage by spoken word and bended knee; but they brought gifts and laid them at His feet.

It is not enough for us to sing our songs of praise to the Babe of Bethlehem, or to bow before Him in reverent worship, and to lift our hearts in words of adoration. To stop there would be far short of our obligation. We should also bring our gifts and the assurance of continued love and lay them at His feet.

There is a great deal of sentiment at Christmas time in the consecration of many people. . . . In so many instances it is sentiment only and when there is a call for further sacrifice or giving, the sentiment immediately vanishes into thin air. We have heard people sing missionary hymns with great warmth, and when the collection plate

THOUGHTS FOR CHRISTMAS

Let us pause at this Season and meditate upon the many, many things we should be grateful for; our knowledge of His saving grace being the most important—our Church, our homes and our Country.

This is the time when we need to create consciously a feeling of humbleness; when we need to think about the seemingly difficult experiences and see in them opportunities to grow and to understand more of God, of life and ourselves.

This Christmas Season brings us face to face with the state of affairs in our nation and throughout the world. Many take a pessimistic view of the possibility of a permanent peace, when so many seek shelter and food and all the things that make life comfortable. We, who have an understanding of God should consciously celebrate Christmas Day. Let us add our understanding, and our praise to the heart of the world. Let us renew our faith in mankind, re-affirm our belief in the provision of the Heavenly Father for His children in every land. May we continue to work for the establishment of peace by making our individual contribution of a peaceful spirit to the world about us.

NO LEGEND THIS

They say on that first Christmas eve a rose Pushed upward, by God's hand, amid the snow Its bloom.

A sign! and by its fragrant present there Proclaimed to men of Good Will everywhere The birth of Christ.

And pine trees were not always green. Men say

That night they made their boughs a haven warm

To shelter snow birds from the wintry storm The infant Christ decreed: "They green shall stay,

And gladden children's hearts on Christmas Day."

The Christ Child wanders through the world each year.

The eve of His Nativity, 'tis said. He seeks a humble cot to rest His head.

In homes where candles burn He is held dear, And so it's clear, why windows glow with light

Each Christmas night.

They say that birds from all the world were led

OUR HOPE IS IN CHRIST

By F. D. Burroughs

Soon our Country will be celebrating its third peace-time Christmas in four years. Thousands of our service men and women are still far from home protecting the peace. Some people are still at war. But the world-wide killing has ceased and we thank God for peace.

Yet, even as we thank God for peace, we are very much aware that all is not well with our world. We were so anxious to get everything settled as easily as possible, with a minimum of personal inconvenience. We so much wanted the problems of business, war, labor, and all the others to be solved without our having to re-adjust our own personal habits. We hoped that our Government could straighten our world out; we hoped that the men at the head of our Corporations could ward off economic strife; we hoped that our communities could take care of their affairs, but all was false hope, rudely dashed to the ground because we minimized the power of evil. The Christian gospel is the good news of hope, not that easy optimism which shuts our eyes to the reality and the power of evil; or not the

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

By Ray R. Fisher, Pastor Augsburg Lutheran Church.

The Christmas Song of the angels is the greatest song the world has ever heard; for its melody is the Love of God, the Wisdom of God, and the Power of God.

Before Jesus came the world had the conquering power of Rome, but no conquering love. It had brilliant and exalted leaders, but none who was above all a Servant and a Friend.

Jesus brought sacrifices to a world of selfishness, love to a world of hatred, hope to a world of despair, and faith to a world of disillusionment. Into a silent world He brought a song. Into a faltering world He brought a staff. Into a defeated world He brought victory. He spoke and the world still listens. He taught and the world still learns.

The angels might have said, "Unto you is born a teacher, a perfect example, a good

was passed to gather in the tithes whereby the missionary work could be furthered, they let the plate pass by.

Some people pray to God to send laborers into the vineyard, but they do not themselves respond to God's call for laborers. . . . What a paradox we find in many lives. Dear reader, our singing and praying can never go beyond our lives. It's the way we live that really counts!

The other fact we wish to notice is that these Magi not only brought gifts, but they brought rich and costly gifts; that suggest that we too should bring Him the best we have—our gold, frankincense, and myrrh, the broken alabaster box of our heart's deepest love and affection, and the best of all our life and service. It is a shame that so many give the Saviour of men the things that are left over, after they have taken out all they desire for self-indulgence or to further personal ambitions. Shall we all covenant together to give Him the richest and finest of gifts and of service this Christmas season?

By C. J. Guthrie, Past President

3-B Baraca Class

The war's end can be the beginning of a new day. True, the world's problems do not disappear, but like the individual, who acquires soul growth through meeting his problems and rising above them, the world can learn and grow as it handles its problems.

We cannot be reminded too often that the world is made up of individuals, that even one person who solves his problems triumphantly lifts the level of the whole world. You Can Be That Person.

This is the loveliest Season of all the year. Even if the sky is starless, a star is shining above Bethlehem's hill that we can see, still. Even if the sound of discordance may reach our ears, the angel choir sings songs of peace that our hearts hear.

This Christmas we have, as shepherds did, The flock of cares and worldly things To follow where the star of peace Leads upward to the King of Kings.

This Christmas a hope is born anew For greater bonds of brotherhood; Where nations sing in harmony, And Christ at last is understood.

By guiding star to carol o'er His bed In Bethlehem.

The ox and ass spoke praises to the Prince Of Peace that night. And every Christmas since

They're giv'n the power to speak with tongues, like men, And praise the world's redeemer once again.

Just legends these, mere stories from the sod, Where vain man seeks to mend the works of God.

They're pretty, but they take on paltry worth

When held against the fact of Jesus' birth. No legend this—it's perfect as it stands: God came to earth unaided by our hands. Child's form He took in all humility, And dwelled among us as a man so we Might from the bonds of sin be ever free. No legend this—Christ's birth's a fact of love;

Adore, have faith, this gift is from above. —Carl E. Koppenhaver.

Season's Greetings

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It is our sincere wish that you may enjoy the blessings of good health, happiness and prosperity at this Christmastime and throughout the coming year.