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*For unto you is born this day in the City of David
a Saviour, Who is Christ the Lord.*

The infancy narrative in the Gospel of Saint Luke calls us to a stable; the Prologue of Saint John's Gospel leads us to the portal of Heaven. In each we encounter the eternal Word, and through each we come to know our Redeemer. The wonder of this holy Season calls out to our hearts and souls the abiding truth of our faith: That unto us is born this day in the City of David, the Saviour, Who is Christ the Lord.

Though centuries have passed since the Word leaped down from Heaven, the tidings of great joy heard in the stillness of that holy night echo across time. In Him, God revealed His plan of salvation. The Gospel proclamation of the Word-made-flesh announced to all who would hear His Word, the redemption of humanity from sin and death. The pain and sorrow of the past, the fear over an uncertain future, the guilt and sorrow for sin, all give way in the light of the Christmas message. A message which unlocks the mystery of our being and reveals God's loving plan for our salvation.

Like the shepherds of old, we have heard and believe the Gospel word of the Christmas angel. The Saviour, who is Christ the Lord, has been born for us in the city of David, called Bethlehem. And we too have been born again in Him. Heaven is ours by His grace and mercy. The carols, the gifts, the lights and images of Christmas, are but tokens of our belief in the One who came to earth that we might go to Heaven. Christmas is Christmas because of Christ, revealed for all who would hear and continue to hear the Gospel message of the angels.

By His holy Incarnation, Christ humbled Himself and entered into our life, faced our temptations, carried our sorrows, bore our sins, that we might know the "breadth and length, and depth, and height of [His] love...and so be filled with the fulness of God." (*Eph. 3:18-19*) Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem and the Christ of Calvary, is the same yesterday, today, and forever; and the way to happiness and fulfillment is to be found only in the One Who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

This Child, this Man, Jesus Christ, whose Nativity we celebrate at Christmas, challenges everything this world stands for, down to its very foundations. Yet, in His unconditional love, He lifts up this fallen world to the very heights of heaven, drawing all people unto Himself. This is the Child, the Man, the Saviour who, if we allow Him into our hearts and into our lives, will completely transform us, turning our old life into one precious and new. This is the One who, with but one prayer from our lips, will forgive our past, secure our future, and guide our every step.

Christmas is the celebration of the union of God with man for the redemption of the world. And therein is the truth of this Holy Season – that the eternal Word of God, born in a manger, born in time yet present from all eternity, is born again and lives on in every heart and every soul which receives Him as Lord and Saviour.

"He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth."
St. John 1:10-14.

A blessed and joyous Christmas to you all!

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