



**CHRISTMAS 2025**  
**A MESSAGE FROM THE**  
**PRIMATE OF THE TRADITIONAL ANGLICAN CHURCH**

Beloved Brethren in Christ:

As Jesus stood before the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate, in the Hall of Judgment, Pilate asked Him, "Where are you from?" The prisoner, Jesus, was accused of declaring himself to be a king, but that his kingdom was "not of this world" – a capital offence under Roman law. In answer to Pilate's question, Jesus alluded to a mysterious origin and purpose, saying: "For this I was born and for this I have come into the world to bear witness to the truth." Pilate was disturbed by this response. And yet he could not shake off the mysterious impression left by this man, so different from those who had stood before him in judgment. The Roman Governor had asked Jesus where He was from in order to understand who this man from Nazareth really was and what He was all about.

The question, "Who are You?" permeates the Gospels. In His hometown of Nazareth, Jesus had stood up in the synagogue and expounded the words of Holy Scripture not in the customary way, but by relating them to Himself and to His mission with an authority that went beyond human reasoning. The congregation was shocked by His understanding, and by His claim that He was the one proclaimed in the Scriptures. Their response: "Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary?" And they were offended at Him.

Even in Jesus' hometown of Nazareth, the question, "Where are you from?" had arisen, His origins dismissed by reference to his parents and relatives. In Caesarea Philippi, Jesus Himself asked the question of His disciples: "Who do people say that I am?" Then He asked, "Who do you say that I am?"

Who is Jesus? Where is He from? These are the fundamental questions which the world and every human being must face, ponder, and answer for him or herself. And it begins on Christmas Day. For it is on Christmas Day that the answer of where Jesus is from and Who He is, is revealed. Saint John proclaims in the Prologue to his Gospel:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made".

Who is "the Word" spoken of in these verses? Saint John responds with yet another revelation: "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."

In his Gospel, Saint Matthew records, Jesus' genealogy through Abraham and David, Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Mary – the line of Israel, God's chosen People. Saint Luke records in his Gospel, Jesus' genealogy back to Adam, to the Gentile nations, to those to whom the Promise of salvation would also come.

As Saint John the Evangelist reveals in the Fourth Gospel, the man Jesus is the dwelling-place of the Word, the eternal divine Word of God Incarnate in this world. Jesus' "flesh," his human existence, is the "dwelling" or "tent" (as the phrase reads in the Greek text). A clear reference to the sacred tent of Israel in which God's presence was known, and which would become the Temple in Jerusalem, and the Tabernacle in the Christian Church.

"Where do you come from?" asked Pilate; asks the world. Jesus comes from God. He is God. And this origin, this coming from God, opens up a new beginning for all humanity. "For to all who receive him, who believe on his Name, He gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

We know that those who believe in Jesus enter through faith into His unique origin, and in turn receive this origin as their own. All believers are initially "born of blood and of the will of man". But by faith in Christ and by God's grace, each believer is given a new birth, and enters into the very origin of Jesus Christ. Saint Augustine wrote: "When you believe in the heart unto righteousness, you conceive Christ; and when with the lips you confess unto salvation, you give birth to Christ." By faith we respond to Jesus' question: Who do you say that I am? Our response: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

The Biblical and historical record gives evidence of the fulfillment of the ancient prophecies with respect to Jesus' birth and place of birth. Though thought to have come from Nazareth – a town of no prophetic significance – in fact by God's will and Caesar's decree, Jesus was born as prophesied in the City of David, called Bethlehem. Born, not of blood, nor of the will of man, but of the Virgin Mary through the power of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' origin is the fulfillment of the ancient prophecies of the Messiah, and God's promise of man's redemption.

Jesus came among us as a newborn Child; He walked among us as God's Word made flesh. In His earthly ministry He healed people who were hopelessly ill. He gave to those who were blind the gift of sight. He opened ears that had never heard. He restored broken and withered limbs. He gave bread to feed thousands who were hungry for what He alone could give. He raised the dead by simply commanding them to rise. He forgave the woman caught in adultery and promised the repentant thief Paradise. In the Sacrament instituted at the Last Supper, He gave us His Body and Blood for our salvation. Upon the Cross, He gave us life.

Who is this Child? He is God Incarnate. Where did He come from? Heaven. Why did He come among us? To restore us to our original state as men and women created in the image of God, whose dwelling place is with God. He is Christ the Lord, the Saviour of the world, come to earth for the salvation of the world – for you and me.

May I extend to all, my prayers for a joyous and blessed Christmas!

*The Most Reverend Shane B. Janzen, OSG, DD  
Primate of the Traditional Anglican Church*