

Peace Among Men

We thrill to the tuneful harmony of our Christmas music. We love the light that glows in the eyes of our children as they unwrap the long-wished-for presents. We enjoy the taste of Christmas delicacies, the shimmering beauty of the Christmas trees and the soft glow of candlelight as it penetrates the darkness of the night. We delight in the fragrant smell of Christmas greenery as it fills the room with its pine-like aroma. But unless the Prince of Peace begins to live and rule in our hearts we fail to see the thrill and joy of the true Christmas that brings Peace among men.

The Peace of Christ can only come to those alone who accept Him as the Prince of Peace. No peace will be established upon this earth unless and until Christ's peace is first established in the hearts of men. Peace treaties have been signed by great leaders who penned their name with golden pens. Peace organizations have sought to halt uprisings and riots by means of good will toward men. Peace powers have built up barriers with atomic force against the invasion of enemies. But all efforts have proven themselves fruitless as time went on. Wars, unrest, riots seem to fill the world. Do you really want a Merry Christmas and on earth peace among men? Then let the Prince of Peace fill your life with that everlasting Peace which only the Christ Child of Beth-

lehem's manger can bring.

R. Mensch
Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church

God Rest You Merry

"Today Christ is born, today the Saviour has appeared, today angels sing on earth, arch-angels rejoice."

With what justice may we say to one another, at the Christmas of 1967: "God rest you merry?" We will not today pretend what was said of the first Christmas, that the whole world is at peace. At the moment, our own troubled nation is far from at peace with itself. Nonetheless . . .

The Bomb has not fallen. Is this a small blessing? Up to now, mankind has been spared the ultimate catastrophe, the indescribable horror. For such mercy let us thank the little Saviour of the world.

Shall we speak, at this Christmas, about "good news of a great rejoicing for the whole people" to men whose skin, in the providence of God, is black?

First, let those of us whose skin happens to be white make our act of contrition to the men and women and children whose skin happens to be black. To plead guilty to centuries of prejudice and injustice . . . and offer our truest sorrow for harming children in answer to a simple cry for justice.

Yet we dare to suggest that the newest Christmas brings to the dark-skinned of this world a sense of a new and better



JAYCEES helped Santa pass out candy treats at the Community Christmas party Monday night. Above are, left to right, club president Gary Buhler, Jim and Bill Woodward.

spirit in the world. All of us have yet a weary road to travel before we emerge from the dark jungle in which we have almost unconsciously lived for so long into the bright sunlight of authentic equity. But the journey has already begun. In our own country we can never turn backwards, retreat, in the matter of color, but only go forward from Christmas of 1967.

There is another thing that is new and wonderful among men this Christmas. It is the bottomless mystery how rational beings will sometimes conduct themselves in the name of religion. Christianity, for example, was from the very beginning a religion of love. Yet Christians have detested not only non-Christians but one another for many, many centuries.

Again, it is not a question of proclaiming a religious utopia. Granted there remains a long journey to the goal of complete religious understanding. But the fact is that the ice of centuries has long last been broken. It has been broken in what we all should have known and recognized was the only possible way: not by the triumph of one over the other, or the capitulation of one to another, but by something bigger and finer and truer than either triumph or capitulation--by charity!

At this Christmas of 1967 the Catholic knows at last that he was wrong, but not all wrong. The Protestant knows that he was right, but not all right. The Jew knows that he has been sinned against, and he will forgive.

God rest you merry, all who read these words, and every other, too. May the small Prince of Peace grant us all a Christmas of charity and peace.

Fr. Leonard Plocinski

The Meaning Of Christmas

To the WORLD Christmas means giving and receiving gifts, family gatherings, greeting cards, frantic preparations, snow, Santa Claus, parties, sometimes drunkenness and heartache; all of which is soon forgotten, only to be renewed a year later.

To JOSEPH it meant a visitation from God and obedience to that vision. "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a

dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS; for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph, being raised from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife; and knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son; and he called his name JESUS." Matthew 1:18-25.

To MARY it meant being chosen by God to be the mother of God the Son, and submission to this miraculous birth. Later it meant grief of heart as she witnessed His crucifixion. "And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women . . . Fear not, Mary; for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end . . . and Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." Luke 1:28-33, 38.

To the SHEPHERDS it meant the fearsome and thrilling experience of being the first to hear God's announcement of the giving of a Savior to the world. "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord . . . Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:10, 11, 14.

To the WISE MEN it meant understanding the sign of His star, much preparation, and a long, slow journey to another land to worship one they knew to be God in flesh. "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him; and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Matthew 2:1, 2, 11.

To GOD, the FATHER, it meant sending His only begotten Son into a world that was at enmity with Him, that He might shed His blood upon a cross to redeem that world from sin, and that sinners might be reconciled to God. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,

that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16 "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8.

To the LORD JESUS it meant the unspeakable agony of being separated from the Father and the Holy Spirit to dwell in human flesh, stripped for a time of His glory. It meant the shame of death upon a cross, of punishment in place of others, of becoming sin for us. It meant the resurrection from the dead that brought hope to all who will receive Him. "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man." Hebrews 2:9 "But he denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; and killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses . . . But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled. Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." Acts 3:14, 15, 18, 19.

To ME it means that I must decide what my relationship to this Holy One will be. I can simply ignore Him. "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" Hebrews 2:3 I can reject Him. This is to invite certain judgment. "He that rejecteth Me, and receiveth not My words, hath one that judgeth him; the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." John 12:48 I can receive him. "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. I John 5:11-12. "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3 "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 . . . of God." John 1:12, 13.

What does Christmas mean to YOU?

Daniel Hager, Pastor
First Community Church

Open Wide Our Doors

The night air was cool and crisp; the sky was filled with twinkling stars; families were preparing for the coming hours of night. Just outside Bethlehem silence hung like a mist in a hay-scented stable. An ox, some travel weary donkeys, and a few sheep lay contentedly still. As Joseph helped Mary into the dimly lighted enclosure, because there was no room for them in the inn, the animals turned startled eyes on the intruders.

Mary, blessed above all other women, knew that the time for the birth of her child had come. Involuntarily she clutched herself because of the recurring pain. Joseph was concerned a-



Joyous Greetings

May the spiritual inspiration of Christmas Day bring you much joy.

GRANGE MUTUAL
PRUDENTIAL
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INSURANCE

George McDonald

about his wife and asked what he could do to help her. She smiled and assured him everything was alright. They had everything they needed; the swaddling clothes for the Child, their trust in God, a place to stay, and each other.

Joseph, weary from traveling, tenderly helped Mary to the welcome comfort of the soft golden hay. Then he tied their little donkey, the one Mary had been riding for many hours, near the other animals.

That night in the Bethlehem stable Jesus Christ the Son of God was born and became the God of Man. He who is eternal took on mortal flesh and blood. Confidently Mary and Joseph had waited for this event to take place. For many centuries the faithful had looked for fulfillment of God's gracious promise. At long last the silence of God was once again broken. This time it was not the voice of a bearded prophet foretelling God's people of the coming of the Messiah, but the sharp cry of a baby that changed the silent waiting into joyous realization.

Christmas is a sacred season. Families will be linked closer together as they worship the Christ Child on Christmas Day. But let us let the Child grow up and worship Him also as the One who later in life dies on a cross for us.

How silently, how humbly, the Savior came and comes. We open wide our doors to Him this Christmas.

Father Lloyd
St. Christopher's
Episcopal Church

"The Light Of The World Is Jesus"

"When they saw the star they rejoiced with exceeding great joy" (Matt. 2:10).

As at every Christmas there will be little children on the hills of Bethlehem looking for the Star and there will be men and women the world over thinking how God one day hung a Star from the floor of heaven to guide the humble and the wise. That Star has reflected "the hopes and fears of all the years" as the light of God reveals itself in the hearts and lives of men everywhere.

"The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth His handiwork" is as true today as it was thousands of years ago, and those who sneer and laugh and deny this truth only do it because there is no light in them.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. He that walks in me shall have the light of life and shall not walk in the dark." Like King Herod many years ago men are trying today to blot out His light—they are even trying to reach the stars in order to blot them out—but only God can do that, and only God and His love in us can make your light and mine shine brighter at this Christmas season.

Come to the Star—it is shining for you—shining as brightly now as then—shining to brighten the pathway of everyone who will be guided by its light.

Let us answer the challenge given by P. P. Bliss when he wrote:

"Come to the light,
'Tis shining for thee,
Sweetly the light has dawned upon me.
Once I was blind, but now I can see—
The Light of the World is Jesus!"

Albert D. Kribs
Christian Church

The Appalachian Trail can be hiked 2,500 miles from Maine to Georgia.

Advanced Aviation Classes At College

Starting the first week in January, Southwestern Oregon Community College will offer two new courses in aviation. Both are advanced courses for local pilots who want to update their training or increase their knowledge in weather and aviation.

Advanced Aviation B course includes radio communications, navigation and the use of aviation charts and the Airmen's Information Manual. Meteorology, including weather recognition and elementary forecasting will also be included in the class.

Advanced Aviation C course is the first team of an Instrument Pilot Ground School. This is a two semester course and includes instrument charts, instrument flight planning, and regulations pertaining to instrument flight.

This is the first time these classes have ever been available in this section of the state. Both courses have also been approved by both the Federal Aviation Administration and the Veterans Administration. Interested persons may contact SWOCC.

Pacific Loses To Douglas

PORT ORFORD — Douglas High made it a two-game sweep from Pacific with a 75-52 win.

The contest was close the first half. The Trojans went into the locker room with only a six point margin at 32-26. A Douglas press and fastbreak combination put the stopper on the Pirates in the second half of play.

Jerry Carpenter led both teams in scoring with 18 points.