

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

The most surprising thing about Christmas is that it is true. What's true? The making of much money? The fury of going about — here and there? The fatigue and seeking for relief from too much activity? The covering over of a selfish life by a few acts of charity?

No; these are some of the debris by which Christ gets buried in the Christmas celebration. These things are temporary and full of deception.

But He who is born for us is true. His birth is no illusion. He is every good promise of God's love, fulfilled and come true.

For centuries God had promised deliverance to mankind. He uttered his mighty and gracious Word through the mouths of men. But in Christmas the Eternal Word becomes man; He takes on flesh. In the person of His own dear Son, God keeps His promise. This one in the manger is the true and eternal Son of God; very, real and true God with His Father. And just as truly, He is man, our Brother. He is made like us in every respect — except He did no sin.

God has said that He would come back to us. Here in the manger is the Bridge over the gap between God and us. Jesus Christ is our Peace, our Reconciler. God is true.

The joy of Christmas is meant for people, not only the young in years; it is meant for all life, not only a few days in December. The joy of the Child in the manger is true joy, for God has come to earth in the flesh for us. As children, let us participate in this joy, not self-conscious and calculated joy, but the spontaneous joy which arises from the awareness of God's Act, and bursts forth into singing and thanksgiving, love and good will.

—The Reverend Kenneth F. Korby, pastor
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