



# Worship Christ, The Newborn King

**2011 A BLESSED & MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!  
MAY YOUR NEW YEAR BE FILLED WITH GOD'S BLESSINGS!**

The season of Christmas, which lasts for eight days, is surely a time for love. God shows his delight in the human race—yes, us: weak, faltering, faulty, disobedient, and disappointing as we often are. The gift of God born into the world for our sake, Wonderful-Counselor, God-Hero, and Prince-of-Peace, comes undeserved and undeservable! All we can do in response is to say thank-you with full and grateful hearts.

This is also a season for peace. As heaven and earth are reconciled in the birth of this child, don't you suppose we on earth could do a little more to cultivate peace among ourselves? Christmas is a time for forgiveness. Jesus comes to save us from our sins. Isn't it time we let go of a few old grievances, let a few old enemies off the hook?

Emmanuel comes to be God-with-us, the generous self-offering of the Creator to creation. Will the presents we give one another under the tree suffice to answer that gift? Love covers a multitude of sins, we're told (1 Peter 4:8). Because most of us have a few sins that could use covering, why not resolve in this Christmas season to do this one simple thing: love more fully and completely? To answer the great gift of divine love with our love in return?

Dear friends, if we want to change the world, really make a difference in the entire scope of human history, we don't have to invent something new. We can simply offer something so ancient, it's primordial: love. A single person motivated solely by love transforms everyone around him or her, like Francis of Assisi, Paul of Tarsus, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, or Mary of Nazareth. Try it for one day—this one Christmas day. Wash the dishes in love. Answer the doorbell with love. Smile at total strangers for love's sake. Bear hardship with love. And the Word will become flesh in this world all the more, through you.

To say the "Word became flesh" is to say that human beings in all their earthiness are holy creatures--true children of God made in the very image of God. Consequently the work of human hands is equally graced. Art as well as science becomes an instrument of theology--an expression of the divine life--in a faith where God becomes human. Christian music, poetry, art, and architecture are as significant as the writings of Aquinas or the discoveries of Galileo or Einstein in terms of its potential to bring glory to God. "The world is charged with the grandeur of God," Gerard Manley Hopkins tells us. See for yourself. Look around at the beauty and love you see this Christmas. If you look hard enough, you can see that same grandeur all year long. The Word becomes flesh daily in the life of every Christian.

With My Prayers, a Blessing, and Much Love,

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