

Christmas Message 2007

Christmas day is almost upon us once again. The time of rushing, bad roads, long line-ups at the stores, office parties and hurried holiday wishes is coming to an end. Many will secretly, or not so secretly, breathe a sigh of relief. The day has come, the rush is over, we can now relax and catch our breath.

All this hurry and all these preparations, of course, raise basic questions. What is it all about? Is the focus of the celebrations really worth all this bother? Some will answer 'No.' Others 'yes'. It surely depends on what the focus in your life and your family is this Christmas. If the emphasis is on partying simply as partying, if the gifts are simply to be consumed, or are given because one has to do so, (even if the recipients neither need, nor desire what is given), if the holiday wishes seem perfunctory and empty, then the answer should incline towards the negative. There is however another way, a better way - a truly traditional manner and reason to celebrate.

The Christian Church, even the Anglican Church of Canada in the midst of all her confusion and fragmentation, invites us all to focus and to celebrate. Celebrate not just what is good in the lives of people, not just giving to the needy, not just cheer and good will, not just family, BUT an even greater good, the gift of the Greatest Good, the Good News of the gift of the Son from the Father - the birth of Jesus Christ. This is the gift which is truly worth celebrating, a gift whose significance knows no bounds. A gift, our thankfulness for which, is to know no moderation.

My prayer is that you and yours may take, make and claim the time this Holy season to celebrate the gift of God's Son to us. Remember this gift at your tables, especially on Christmas Day, remember this gift as you unwrap on Christmas morn, remember this gift as you see faces from distant places, remember this gift as you rise and when you prepare to rest. Above all, remember this gift in His House as you intentionally join others to wonder and share again the awe of childhood at the love and the majesty of our God. The Creator of the Universe, the frail child of Bethlehem, has come to us, has acted to become the Savior of us needful creatures. Here is cause for celebration, here is food that satisfies a hunger deeper than food can touch, here we can find that which can fill all our emptiness, here is our God and our salvation. O come let us worship the lowly Christ child, the son of Mary, the Son of God.

In His Love,

Rev Dr R N Hebb