



*Joy to the world,
the Lord is come!*

Church of the Transfiguration

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My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus!

As we celebrate this Christmas season, our thoughts turn to that sacred event long ago when the Prince of Peace and the Light of the World was born (see Isaiah 9:6). Jesus Christ is our Savior and Redeemer who was 'wounded for our transgressions... and with his stripes we are healed,' (Isaiah 53:5). He promised: 'He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life,' (John 8:12). We sincerely pray this Christmastime that the light and testimony of the Savior will come into our hearts, that our lives will reflect his life and attributes, and that people everywhere will accept the blessings of his mercy and grace that are made possible through his atoning sacrifice.

As we celebrate Christmas, we are thankful for the gift of faith, a gift of 'good news' that opens up for us the beautiful message of this holy season, namely, that God loves us so much that he sent his only Son to redeem us and to show us the way to the Father in heaven.

The best Christmas gift we can give each other is to share our faith with loved ones that strangers alike, proclaiming the joyous tidings that 'God is with us.' And we should not just share our faith but we should reach out to one another with all the blessings God has given us, especially the gift of peace. Our world, our country and our homes are often witnesses to violence, prejudice and fear. Christmas is a time for us to counter these ills by loving each other as deeply as God loved us by sending us his son. May each of us be blessed during this joyous time of the year, and may we acknowledge with gratitude our Heavenly Father's incomparable gift to us – his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

May Jesus Christ bless you this Christmas season and in the coming New Year 2023!

Yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Gregory Mludzik

Very Rev. Gregory Mludzik, Pastor and Family