



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF BOSTON

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΒΟΣΤΩΝΗΣ

Christmas 2018

Christmas has arrived once again to re-ignite our souls and to replicate in our hearts the blessed joy and hope which were experienced by the Magi and the shepherds that first silent night, that first holy night in Bethlehem. Christmas comes so that we may experience the tenderness and love of Almighty God who stoops down to our limitations, our weaknesses and our sins.

Christmas is feast which teaches us that humility is the channel through which God chooses to reveal to us who He is. He was born in humility. He lived in humility, humbling Himself even unto death.

Christmas provides us with the opportunity to cultivate the virtues of the Divine Infant --- the virtues of humility, simplicity, self-denial, self-sacrifice, the sharing of all that we have with the poor, the sick, the widows, the orphans, the homeless, the hungry. All those strangers whom we have forgotten.

This Christmas, let us sing the song of the angels, "Glory to God in the highest and on Earth peace and goodwill among men." Let us give glory to our loving God. Let there be peace to His people on earth. Sadly, for many of us God seems so distant, peace so elusive. God appears to be far beyond the grasp of our understanding and belief. Where is there peace on earth and goodwill among men? We witness war and violence throughout the world --- even in our own cities and towns. We experience the absence of peace in our own families, in our own hearts. But peace is possible for those who believe. Disbelief, anguish and cynicism are replaced by the birth of the incarnate Lord, the Prince of Peace, who comes to reign in the manger of our hearts. We rejoice that He comes to us as a child. The Babe of Bethlehem is proof of God's love for us. He is the source of our power to be at peace with ourselves and to love our neighbor. He teaches us that true happiness can only be found in sharing love and radiating justice. Only when we break out of the shell of selfishness will we appreciate the power of love and the meaning of peace.

I pray that the peace and joy of Christmas be with you every day of the New Year.

Metropolitan Methodios of Boston