



*Merry Christmas,  
and a Blessed  
New Year!*

**8** That night some shepherds were in the fields outside the village, guarding their flocks of sheep. **9** Suddenly an angel appeared among them, and the landscape shone bright with the glory of the Lord. They were badly frightened, **10** but the angel reassured them.

“Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you the most joyful news ever announced, and it is for everyone! **11** The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born tonight in Bethlehem! **12** How will you recognize him? You will find a baby wrapped in a blanket, lying in a manger!” **Luke 2: 8-12**

Christmas! This season means so many things, and raises so many powerful feelings in people. Christmas brings excitement, compassion, joy, and love. People become more altruistic and benevolent. Christmas is tangible. It is NOT just another holiday.

In keeping with the true meaning of Christmas, the celebration of the birth of our Savior, we pray that you receive all that is genuinely important this season: cherished time with your family and friends; time to create new life-long memories, time to laugh, time to hug, time to reconcile, time to recharge, and time to reflect. We pray your holiday is filled with the awe of a 6-year-old on a magical Christmas morning, that your travels are safe and smooth, and all your traffic lights are green 😊!

It is our hope and prayer that everyone is able to find the true secret of Christmas – the utter Peace and Joy that comes from Jesus - that you are able recognize and love every person as your brother or sister, regardless of their political ideology, background, or beliefs. We pray you can re-center, focus on your personal values and priorities, and stride into the New Year with a sense of peace, light, and complete confidence that all can be good in the world. Best wishes and God Bless you all this holiday season!!

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