

## The Feast of the Nativity of the Lord Jesus Christ

Matthew 2:1-12

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. (KJV)

Peace of God! Christ is Born! Indeed He is Born!

Believers around the world gather today in God's Holy Church to worship and celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. Hearts, minds and souls are filled with Christ's love.

Jesus' birth permeates the centuries. Jesus' birth is always new! The Church celebrates Jesus' birth in the present. Believers are renewed each year with Jesus taking on human flesh.

Hearts of believers embrace the miracle of the Virgin Birth. The Virgin Birth exceeds the limits of the finite mind. With God all things are possible. (Mt.19:26) Believers' minds, hearts and souls welcome the Lord taking on human flesh.

God's churches and monasteries are filled with exceeding joy on the Feast of the Nativity. Families in homes throughout the world take time to celebrate Jesus' birth. Peace fills believers' homes and hearts.

Believers share the joy of Jesus Christ's birth in their greetings on the Feast of the Nativity. The need for God's peace extends to human daily relationships. The world needs and benefits from the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Even during times of war, combatants have been known to pause to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity. The Feast of the Nativity is a time for peace to be restored in homes, communities and among nations.

Jesus Christ is the Exemplary Model of Peace. He remained peaceful when arrested and taken to be crucified. He did not raise a hand in self-defense or call others to defend Him. (Luke 22:47-54) (Mt.26:50-54)

Leaders everywhere do well in promoting peace and in emulating Jesus' humility and example of serving others. Jesus established the clear and lasting example of humility and service in washing His disciples' feet. (Jn.13:13-14)

In today's world having lasting peace and humility as primary virtues seems to be greatly lacking. If true peace and humility were valued in more human hearts, greater peace would abound in the world.

The number of people and countries arming themselves and the daily news about violence and wars shows clearly that peace is not primary in hearts everywhere. The Feast of Christ's birth is a renewed call for peace among humans.

The world faces challenges today as has every generation. Herod was troubled by Jesus' birth. Corrupt leaders of every age are troubled with the presence of serious believers living in the way of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Honest and moral believers are disconcerting in places filled with corruption. Corruption and falsehoods are addressed and uncovered when serious believers pursue and reveal truth.

The Lord Jesus Christ is clear in saying: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (Jn.14:6) The Feast of the Nativity is a time for believers to reflect deeply in the heart, and soul on Jesus' words.

Jesus Christ taking on flesh opens the new way of living. Jesus Christ's birth opens the path to the Kingdom of God and eternal life. Forgiveness of sins and renewal of life became possible in the Living Christ.

Today is a time for peace and joy. Today give abundant thanks to the Lord God. Christ's birth fills the hunger of the soul. Christ's birth fills the essential primary need of Life for the whole world.

The Feast of the Nativity challenges believers to think deeply and seriously about Jesus taking on human flesh. The Divine taking on human flesh as a newborn infant child in simple surroundings is a most humble action.

In this world where glory is too often misplaced, giving glory to the Living God taking on human flesh is the timely message for today. Giving glory to the Living God is always the timely message for every day.

The Gospel states the wise men put forth the effort to find the new born Christ Child They worshipped him and gave Him gifts. Wise men and women always seek, worship and give gifts to the Lord Jesus Christ.

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Feast of the Nativity of the Lord Jesus Christ. December 25, 2023/January 7, 2024.  
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