

## FROM THE PASTOR

### MERRY CHRISTMAS!

**Today is born our savior, Christ the Lord.  
Glory to God in the Highest!**

My dear brothers and sisters,

This is a day of Feasting, a day of celebration. Today we remember how Our Lord came to us in the most humble way. God so longed for His people to be close to Him that He came not on the clouds, not as a conquering king, but as a baby born in the humblest of places. There wasn't even room for Him in the Inn! How much God must love us, how intensely must His *fire of passion* burn for you and for me that He would make Himself so little, humble Himself so much as to come to us in this way. He is so approachable, and He longs, *LONGS* I tell you, to be approached, to be embraced, to be loved! His Heart aches to be with us, to be with you in particular. I pray that in this Christmas Season, you and I may recognize, in a more profound way, the intimate love God has for us.

I encourage you to ponder this incredible love throughout the Christmas Season (remember that the Christmas Season doesn't end with Christmas Day, but begins with Christmas Day, and ends on the Baptism of the Lord, celebrated on January 9 this year). Do we allow this love to enter our lives? This is an important question. The world doesn't have much place for Jesus – there's no room for Him in the Inn, as it were. We often relegate Jesus to the sidelines. Our culture wants us to see Jesus as someone who can enrich our lives if we want another extracurricular activity. The reality is that Jesus, being God, is the MOST IMPORTANT relationship we have. Worshiping Him, following Him, growing in relationship with Him is the most important thing we do. He is not the "icing on the cake" but rather the "steak and potatoes" – the heart of the meal, if you follow the analogy. He is not out to "smite" us, as some might have us believe, but He *does* want our greatest good. This is why He longs for us to love Him back – in loving Him, in getting out of ourselves, out of our selfishness and egoism, we become the best-version-of-ourselves – we become GREAT.

May we allow the love of God to reshape our lives, to draw us to His Heart, to bring us out of our lukewarmness, complacency and mediocrity, and make us who we were created to be! Merry Christmas, and may the peace and love of God fill you this day and always!

