

GRAND COMMANDERY OF ALABAMA

State News for December 2021

Website: <https://alyorkrite.org/grand-commandery/>

Grand Commander: Winston L. Each REGC

Editor: Thomas F. Craig, PGC, tfcraig@aol.com

FROM THE APARTMENT OF THE GRAND PRELATE

As we approach the celebration of the birth of our Savior, we do so with joy in our hearts and friendly greetings on our lips, and it is well that we do so. In our minds we approach the stable to honor the infant, glorious even though he lies there in humility, wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in an animal's feeding trough. It is a joyful and happy image, but if it is to have any real meaning we must not forget that this infant is also the one who would be nailed to the cross and die to atone for our sins, and rise from the dead to enable us to have everlasting life. Christmas is a meaningless exercise in sentimentality without Good Friday and Easter. Our reason for a joyful celebration is not just the birth of Christ, but rather what that birth portends: our salvation from sin and death. That, however, is indeed a reason for great joy.

We do not remind ourselves of the death of Christ at the time of his birth in order to be gloomy. It is quite the opposite, in fact. Our redemption by his death and resurrection is the reason that his birth is so joyful to us. One of the reasons we love Christmas so much is that the joy we feel extends itself to a feeling of goodwill, warmth, friendship and generosity to others. All around us we see the self-centered Scrooge that is in us all to some degree, transformed into the generous and loving Scrooge of the end of the story. Our primary duty now is to work as hard as we can to retain that transformed nature, and not revert to our old selves until next Christmas. Jesus Christ taught us not only that we are expected to love one another, but that we can actually learn to do it. He also sends us the Holy Spirit to give us the wisdom, courage and strength to do so. All that is left is for us to choose to accept what he has given us and to live as he would have us live.

As we approach the joyful celebration of his birth and of all that he did for us, let us resolve to carry that joy throughout the year and to share it with all our fellows. We are especially blessed and thankful that in our Masonic fraternity we have the encouragement and help of all our brothers and sisters around the world to help us bear the joy of Christ to all mankind.

We wish you all a blessed and merry Christmas.

Sir Knight Richard R. Losch, KCT

Grand Prelate

RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2021

Greetings to you and all Sir Knights!

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

It is with great Pleasure that I extend to you and your family a warm Christmas greeting.

As we prepare to celebrate the Christmas season of 2021, the COVID Pandemic continues to impose limitations on gathering with family and friends.

It does give us time to pause and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.... The celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Time... scripture tells us there is a time for everything... someone very special to me often said:

“Everybody has 24 hours in a day,
One day at a time.
No one gets any in advance...
You can do what you want with yours
I'm going to use mine!”

My Christmas wish for you is time with each member of your family and to remember the gift Jesus gives to us.

Winston L. Each

Right Eminent Grand Commander

GRAND CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising. (Isaiah 60: 2-3)

These words by the prophet Isaiah are taken by many believers to be a part of the foretelling of the birth of a Messiah, one who would redeem and purify the Jewish religion. Christians, of course, readily see these words as predicting the birth of Jesus Christ. And they fit in well with what we know of the birth of Christ—He was born in the darkness of night in a humble stable; the glory of the Lord was made manifest by the appearance of the angelic host to the shepherds; kings (more likely, magi) who were gentiles were led by the brightness of a new star to do homage and present gifts to the Holy Child.

Thus, in a couple of Old Testament Biblical verses, the events manifested in the nativity of the Son of God are foretold. As we celebrate this month the Advent and Birth of the Savior, let us see beyond the worldly frivolity and clamor of the holidays, and endeavor to center our minds and hearts in the true meaning of Christmas and on the great and wonderful gift God gave the world in the little town of Bethlehem a little over two millennia ago.

May the joy and blessings of Christmas be with you and your loved ones this month and in the year to come.

George Marshall, Jr., PGHP
Grand Chaplain, Grand Chapter RAM of Alabama

QUIET MY HEART, LORD

Quiet my heart, Lord,
and show me a Christmas
as peaceful and calm as
an old cattle shed...

Slow down my pace, Lord,
and help me seek Jesus,
the Son of Your Love,
in a humble straw bed...

Steady my spirit, Lord,
call me from chaos
in simple surrender
to pray and rejoice...

Breakthrough the busy,
too-bright celebration,
and whisper your message,
"Be still...hear my voice..."

Be still, and know that I am God..."

Psalm 46:10

-- Author Unknown

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