

A Child is born for us; a Son is given to us!

(Is 9:6)

The Child's Birthday which we celebrate today (tonight) is the most unique one in all of human history. Unlike any other birthdays, this one brought unimaginable and great joy the universe had never seen before. Unlike any other birthdays, the singing was not done by children or adults for that matter. It was done by angels from heaven; the choir was not human or earthly but angelic and heavenly. The angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy His favour!" (Lk 2:14) Indeed it was a very special Birthday party that brought heaven and earth together. "But why was it so special?" one might ask.

It was so special because:-

- God became man
- The eternal entered our time
- The Omnipresent contained Himself in our space
- The Almighty (Omnipotent) took our weakness upon Himself
- The Creator of all took our created flesh though He still remained uncreated
- The boundless limited Himself for us in time and space
- The Author of all history became part of our human history
- The heavenly became earthly
- The divine took our human nature!

This happened only once in the history of the universe and it is not something that happens again. But thanks to that wonderful night in Bethlehem some 2017 years ago, I dare to say that the whole universe is in a much better place the last two millennia! And that won't change forever.

Thanks to that glorious night in Bethlehem of Judea some 2017 years ago, the humanity that had been cast out of the Garden of Eden, is not only restored to an earthly Eden but is allowed to be the inheritor of heaven! We are not anymore banned from eating the fruit from the tree of Eden; we are fed from the eternal banquets the very Body and Blood of the Lamb Who was slain for our sake. We are not anymore removed from approaching the tree of life and knowledge that was planted in Eden; we are give a much bigger grace by being made branches of the very Tree of Life, Jesus Christ. We are not anymore removed from knowing

the good and the bad; but we are made to know the very source of goodness, the Lord Himself. We are not condemned to death anymore; but death itself is now made the gateway to eternal life for us. That night in Bethlehem saw the coming of the Seed of the Woman that crushes the head of our old enemy, the serpent!

What a night! It is just fitting for us to join the angels in their jubilant song who sung the “Gloria in Excelsis Deo”! Yes, let glory be to God in the highest heavens Who sent us His only begotten Son to be our Brother and Rescuer! Yes, let all the heavenly choirs rejoice this day (night) with us! And let there be peace of mind, soul and body in ourselves. Let there be peace in our families, communities, countries and all over the world! Let there be peace in our relationships with our God and Saviour; peace among us who enjoy God’s favour upon us. The Father had made it so clear to us that we are favoured by Him throughout history with so many graces bestowed upon us. But none of the graces given us by Him could come any closer to the gift of his Son for us. Jesus is the ultimate gift of the Father to us. So, let us rejoice and be glad for this is the day the Lord has made for us! Amen! Alleluia!!

Merry **Christmass!**

Fr. Ephrem Andom