

A Christmas Blessing by Bishop Trimble & First Lady Grandberry-Trimble

We pray you are reminded of a love so deep and wide that no one is left behind. Amidst our tears and celebrations, we approach Christmas knowing that God is with us.

On Christmas Eve we will light the Christ candle, and we invite you to make space in your home for a candle to be lit and scripture and prayers to be shared. "True God of true God, Light from light eternal" invites us to come as the faithful to Bethlehem to adore him, Christ the Lord." (UMH#234)

This past Sunday we drove to Chicago to honor our parents, along with family members with a drive-by, drop-off cake and pie blessing. We wore masks and stayed just long enough to say a Christmas prayer and thank God for family and friends. This was coined the 2020 JOY tour.

As we drove home, we praised God for all of the people we include in our wide circle of love. Yes, you are included.

To paraphrase the Apostle Paul in the book of Romans, "Nothing can separate us from the love of God...neither death nor life, COVID-19 nor job loss or injustice. We are convinced that you are blessed with grace and covered in God's mercy. This Christmas, we weep with those who weep, shout with those who shout, and with angelic host proclaim, 'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'"

"I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people. To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:11 (NRSV)

Have a Merry Christmas and blessed new year!

Be encouraged, Amazing Amen!

Bishop Julius C. Trimble First Lady Racelder Grandberry-Trimble
Resident Bishop
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A Christmas Prayer

"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." John 1:14

Let us pray:

Father/Mother God,

We live in a very dark time. Disease is rampant; death is ever near; conflict is universal; and enmity reigns, even among your people. Yet into this darkness, as into the darkness of every year, you cast your glorious light, through your beloved Son. He comes to us in flesh, full of grace and truth, and he brings your saving grace. There is nothing in the world that can defeat your love for us. Hallelujah!

In his name and at his bidding we bring our concerns before you.

We ask your mercy on all those who have been infected with COVID-19. Bring them comfort, heal them with your love, or hold them to your heart and take them home, according to your will.

We ask your mercy on the homeless and the poor. Teach us to treat them as we would treat Jesus, for so he commands.

We ask your mercy for those in conflict zones all over the world. Still the war machines and bring peace on this and every silent and holy night.

We ask your mercy on children everywhere, especially those who are outcast or orphaned. Let us not forget that all children deserve love and fair treatment, and the time and space to learn about you.

We ask your mercy on your people, for we have failed to live in the light.

We celebrate the birth of your Son. Let us not stop there, but let us celebrate the life and teachings of the Son of Man and the sacrifice and resurrection of our Savior. Blessed are you, and blessed is your Son, Jesus the Messiah.

As we celebrate, steep us in your Holy Spirit, so that we may truly rejoice!

"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

Amen.

Written by Rev. Ann Thomas, Conference Prayer Coordinator

