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DIOCESE OF GRAND FALLS

Nativity of the Lord
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*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!”*

Luke 2:13-14

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This beautiful verse from Saint Luke’s Gospel speaks of ‘glory’ and ‘peace.’

In the birth of Jesus, the glory of God is revealed in an unexpected, yet wonderful way. The God of power and might becomes an innocent powerless child. The invisible God of the heavens becomes visible in our humanity. The one through whom all things are created is, himself, created in time and space. And all of this is done to fulfill God’s promise to accomplish the salvation of each one of us. The birth of Jesus teaches us that the true ‘glory’ of God is not found in power, or riches, or wealth, but rather, in love.

For those who celebrate the birth of Jesus with faith, there is peace. This peace is not simply the absence of conflict and struggle. It is not even life without pain or suffering. And it is not life untouched by hardship or injustice. This peace is a peace that the world cannot give - it is the peace that comes with knowing that amid all the good and bad, love and hatred, care and neglect, forgiveness and estrangement we experience in our lives, Jesus is always with us. The birth of Jesus teaches us that true peace is found in the presence of Jesus in our lives.

After the Advent season of patient waiting for our celebration of the Nativity of the Lord, we are invited to sing out with renewed enthusiasm: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will”. In this Hymn of Praise, we add our voices to the voices of the angels at Bethlehem and declare that we too see the glory of God in the birth of Jesus and that we too embrace the peace that his presence brings.

To each of you, and to your family and loved ones, I wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

In Christ,

Most Reverend R. Anthony Daniels
Bishop of Grand Falls