

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Beloved in The Lord,
“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).”(Matthew 1:23 NIV).

We welcome you to this season when we celebrate the greatest mystery ever-God becoming man, the profound demonstration of God's love for mankind. We remain eternally grateful to God for preserving us to see another Yuletide.

It is true that God had always been with His people all through history. This He did through His human agents, but with Christmas, "God is with us" in flesh and blood. “In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”(Hebrews 1:1-3 NIV). What a Mystery, What a demonstration of Humility, What a manner of Love.

At a time when religion of different sorts was flourishing, and men and women were profusely religious but with little Godliness, when people left the creator and were worshipping the created, when the voiceless and powerless were crushed by the vocal and powerful, when it seemed all hope was lost and all was perishing, God did not send a messenger to interpret His plan of love to man, He came Himself to be with them that all who come within the embrace of this love may have peace, joy, and eternal hope "even more abundantly".

Therefore, people of God, in this season of Christmas, we are being reminded that the same solution God provided for every chaos and uncertainty of life, over two thousand years ago-Emmanuel, is even more appropriate for every situation we may face today. So, in every struggle with the world, flesh and the devil, let's remember Emmanuel. In the midst of political uncertainty and leadership vacuum, Emmanuel. When wages for sincere labor are not paid and mediocrity preferred over efficiency and diligence, Emmanuel. When material acquisition seems to overshadow godliness, Emmanuel. “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”(Romans

8:38-39 NIV). Therefore this Christmas calls us all to surrender our whole being to Christ who alone is God with us. To let His love triumph over hatred. Forgiveness over transgression. Charity over jealousy, and contentment over greed. Let us strive to **Be Of The Church** and live to the glory of He who came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. Once again we thank God for this privilege and pray that He fills our homes and Diocese with the song of the Angels and the peace of the new born King.

MAY YOUR CHRISTMAS BE MERRY AND YOUR DAYS BRIGHT

! And to Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before His throne; to the only wise God be all glory honor and majesty now till the end of the age. Amen.

Your Bishop and Friend,

 **NATH, ABA NGWA NORTH.**

Christmas 2019