



Most Eminent Knight Gerald A. Riley
Grand Cross of the Temple,
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2015- 2017
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SUPREME GRAND MASTER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2016

December - the month of pine, balsam fir, of lighted candles, mellow lights, of homes and fireside, laughter, happy faces, Carols of Peace and Goodwill that comes upon the Holy Night. It is a time when people all over the world prepare to Celebrate Christmas, the Birth of God's son. A time for many people, a Holy time, a Holy Day. For others maybe no more than a Holiday Time with no focus on the Christ Child. Not Merry Christmas but Happy Holiday is the Greeting given. A Holy Time or a Holiday time, a source of some controversy among our society.

Of course for the Christian Community of Faith it is the Celebration of the Birth of Jesus born in a manger in a place called Bethlehem. The child grew up and said and did many things that opened up for men, a new and meaningful life. In discipleship and faith they came to Celebrate the Birth of one Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God. Christmas is about this Christ, an occasion of Joyous Celebration and Worship.

The name of Christmas came out of that Faith and Worship - Christ's Mass. It meant more a Holy Time rather than a Holiday Time. Those of the happy Birth, Peace and Goodwill to all and reconciliation and compassion toward all was its theme and so much more of a fuller life. The Birth of one was to be celebrated with unbounded Joy and in Peace and Love. Some say that Christmas is a state of mind and of the heart. Christmas is celebrated the world over by people of many cultures, customs and traditions. Each has put its special meaning to the Birth of the Christ Child and bears witness to what God has done and is doing in the world. It's a Holy Time for people of Faith to Celebrate. It's not a Holiday but a Holy Day. The focus is on the Christ Child come into the world - Emmanuel - God with us. The Good news of the Gospel

So – On behalf of Eileen and myself - “Merry Christmas” to all and to all “Peace and Love” freely given by a God who cares for us all.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order

M. Em Kt. Gerald A. Riley , G.C.T.

Supreme Grand Master