

Christmas Eve Message 2019

Spoken Word: Brought together by the gift of love

Rev. Karen Bridges

This is the time

A time like no other

And yet the SAME as all others.

A time when we celebrate the birth of another.

A time where we are brought together by love...

A love that knows no bounds

And a love that CAN be found

In a place of humble beginnings...

Without all the Christmas trimmings

For the time of Jesus birth

was the beginning

and in the beginning was the word!

A word that came in the form of human birth,

Bringing the sacred to the earth,

So that we would know God

feel God

And believe God's message.

God gave us Jesus as a gift of love.

Another peace offering like the rainbow and the dove.

Brought to us by a mother's love – Mary the mother of Jesus.

And guided by the star at night,

The shepherds wondered afar to see the sight

Of our saviour born on this great night.

This is the time

A time like no other

And yet the SAME as all others.

A time when we celebrate the birth of another.

We too come seeking this new light

A source of solace and delight

Like the shepherds who came late at night

We come to see the sight.

We come as seekers, friends, and mates,

We come as refugees and strangers of late

We come because tonight is Christmas Night.

And on this night we'll soon discover
in the same way as another...that
"Maybe Christmas (he thought) doesn't come from a store.
Maybe Christmas means just a little bit more."

A meaning revealed in vulnerability
A meaning experienced as a true divine being.

We seek a space to be
A space of healing and belief
To know that we are loved and accepted
Is our desire for Christmas remembered.

So tonight as the angels say, "do not fear,"
For who you are,
Does not matter here.
All that matters is that you ARE HERE!

Ready to witness,
Ready to proclaim,
Ready to sing out and call out his name.

For Jesus the Christ is born this night
Changing our lives with love and insight.

Insight into the ancient story
Told by many proclaiming God's glory.

For gathered here with Mary and Joseph
We come to know our saviour's choices
Of bringing peace and good will to all.
Our ancient story witnessed by all.

Our witness of this ancient story
Is what time and time again brings glory,

This gift that draws us all together,
that makes our lives even better.
For we are family!
Bound together

By what some say is insanity,
The word of our Saviour
The word made flesh
Giving us great access
To a God who's greatest asset is ...
Loved lived out by each one of us.

For this new life brings hope and promise
From strangers who surprise us when they bother
To reach out in love and kindness
In a spirit that acts... from...an intentional blindness.
Not caring about wealth or status
Only caring that no one's left behind us.

For we have been called to serve one other
As sibling, and sisters and brothers

This child is not calling us to be part of the circus
This child is calling us to a higher purpose.
A soul's purpose which is that of unconditional love.
This Christmas let's shower the world with love and affection
And let's change this whole world's trajectory...

To a new way,
A God way,
A hopeful way.

For This is the time
A time like no other
And yet it's a time the SAME as all others.
If we listen and see and learn from this night
We can be part of the change that comes AFTER tonight...

We need to ask ourselves...

If "love is bigger than anything in its way"
Then we CAN imagine the world in a new way

Let us join together in this way,
And imagine "the world will live as one." ALWAYS.

When you find love,
we ask you share it

Don't hide it away,
Instead take time to give it away,
And celebrate that it exists!
Found in a baby's life altering bliss.

When you feel loved you know you have it!
That is what comes with the true Christmas magic.
And let me be clear,
Please, have no fear...

For Jesus – the Christ - is truly here!