

The Nativity of our Lord (Christmas)



“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, . . .” (Isaiah 52:7).

“The light shines in the darkness.” (John 1:5).

Beautiful Are They Who Bring Love In the Darkness

It is Christmas! It is the most wondrous feast—the birthday of the One who came to show us a God of love. How beautiful are the feet of those who walk the extra step across a room to greet someone with whom they have had differences. How beautiful are the feet of those who move about in the kitchen making the special foods and serving the guests who gather. How beautiful are the feet of those who not only go to church services but who also fully participate by greeting others joyfully, praying and singing wholeheartedly. How beautiful are the feet of those who walk into homeless shelters or places of little comfort to bring some of their own abundance. How beautiful are the feet of caregivers who work this day in hospitals and nursing homes attending to the needs of residents and patients, instead of being at the table of their loved ones.

Yes, how beautiful are all those who walk this day with the intention of love in their hearts, for they are living the message of the One who came so long ago. This Word of Love brought us glad tidings. We carry these glad tidings of abundant Love within us. The Christ who was born two thousand years ago lives on in us. As our feet take us near and far, let us continue being the Christ to one another.

“Happy Birthday, Emmanuel.” On this feast, the Nativity of the Lord, you are described as the imprint of God’s being (Hebrews 1:3). From the beginning, you have been imprinted with the very essence of God. You shine the light of divine tenderness on all that is broken, all that hopes for forgiveness, all that longs for acceptance, all that yearns to belong. Today we celebrate and give thanks for your presence among us. O, God-with-us, may our light overcome the darkness.” Amen. (Paraphrased from Sr. Chris Koellhofer, IHM)

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