

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Iowa



Grand Prelates Annual Christmas Message, 2024



Knights of the Grand Commandery of Iowa,

As the days grow shorter and the nights grow colder, I pray you find warmth in your homes and in the company of those you love. I pray that your home is filled with the sound of laughter, the scent of freshly baked cookies, and the sight of the dim glow of Christmas lights. If, when deeply engulfed within the illusion of this Christmas ambience, you find it broken by the sound of a knock at your door or a phone ringing in the night, I pray you find the spirit to answer it. Today, many souls find themselves forced to face the elements unguarded by the walls of a home and void of the comfort brought by those who love them, and such was the reality of the first Christmas.

As our vision overwhelms us as we are surrounded by the bright colors of wrapping paper and the lights of our trees, we often find ourselves deaf to the profound silence that marks our brightest and darkest moments. Moments when the formless became form and the finite returned to the infinite. Moments not filled with the awesome and thunderous might of heaven but with the soft silence of the living inhale of a newborn and the dying exhale of a man. Moments of the breath of the Son of God, for whom there was no room in birth or in life. Moments when the child worthy of fine silk finds his comfort within the coarseness of hay and his mother's arms as she is burdened to witness the wood holding her son transform from the manger into the cross.

As Knights of His Order, we are reminded that this divine humility is the very nature of God. When the heavens break open and reveal their splendor, they do so not to mortal kings but lowly shepherds. When presented with offerings from the Eastern Magi, they were not treasured as monetary elements but as transcending totems of the prophecy yet to be fulfilled: gold to the King, frankincense to the Priest of the line of Melchizedek, and myrrh to the Savior born to be sacrificed. When He who is all comes, He does so as He who is none. The Composer held by his symphony, the Painter held by his painting, the Architect held by his building, and the Creator held by his creation as a baby held in his mother's arms.

We celebrate this season as it was the first mortal breath of our King, as without it, there would never have been a last. The inhale of birth and exhale of death stand as divine because they were breathed, and the same breath exhaled by Jesus on the cross was inhaled by Adam on the sixth day, thereby separating him from a mindless golem and making him man, and is the

breath that fills our lungs at this moment. The Pharisees and Sadducees, divided by their chosen definitions, found themselves limited by the interpreted structure of their knowledge and refused the wisdom of wonder, forever preventing them from seeing that their powerful Creator would appear before them within the poverty of creation.

As true Knights Templar, we stand free of such restricting ideological dogmas and are called to search out the Author within his writings. We find Him in the lungs of all who breathe, in the minds of all who think, and in the hearts of all who live. We find Him in the sunshine and the rain, in the heat of Summer and the cold of Winter, and in the joy of laughter and the sorrow of tears. We see Him in the eyes of those whose vision is saved or restored.

This Christmas, I ask that you remember the divine humility of your Creator to come not through incomprehensible glory but through the modesty of an infant's first breath. So that if deeply engulfed within the illusion of this Christmas ambiance, you find it broken by the sound of a knock at your door or a phone ringing in the night, I pray you recognize the person on the other side to have within their lungs the very breath of Jesus.

Eternal Father, I thank You for this opportunity to celebrate the Savior's birth with those we love, and I ask that You inspire us to love Your creation as You have loved Your creation. May we continue to find You in all You have made and endeavor to maintain all You have given us. All this we pray in the name of our Almighty Ambassador, Jesus Christ. Amen

Sir Knight Theodore M. Boomgarden
Grand Prelate

