

## Here Comes Santa Claus

Merry Christmas, I want to say to all of you what a wonderful opportunity it always is to have the privilege to celebrate with our members, congregation, the world and Spirit.

God Bless Harmony Grove for being a blessed doorway for unity and healing; and to be a hub of communication for the love of spirit, humanity and all life, whether it is here or there. The gift we have is knowing we have forever, everlasting life; and everlasting openness is ours, that still waters may run deep but we can travel and submerge ourselves and have a oneness, where separation is an illusion and togetherness is the truth.

We have such an opportunity to be a bridge for family and to reconnect, that God is everywhere through us when we love, share and have no fear through our faith and desire to grow and learn. We have the gift here to activate our true inherent gifts and to walk together on a Divine journey of enlightenment.

This time of the year lifts my spirit, as I know that holds true for many; and activates the angst to touch the hem not only of the spiritual realm but all humanity and animal kind.

Yes, it should be a constant in our lives, and that is the cake of a spiritual life, but Christmas, at least for me, is the frosting, a moment of reflection and symbolic of who and what we are, our true nature to be the reflection of God's mercy and generosity.

So many religions, so many traditions, so many philosophies in the world all attempt to understand and remember hearth and home. But whatever and however you were conditioned, in most cases on different levels of awareness they are grounded in, it was an attempt to build from love and a memorial of where we were created.

So that brings me to the next portion of my sermon. The purest and most innocent interpretation of God's magnificent being is Santa Claus.

We are in a school on this planet and many chapters to learn from, many voices and many children through time laid out pages and pages to understand the meaning of life and the miracle of just being here and all it encompasses.

Santa Claus? Did I actually say my sermon is based on such a child's fairy tale story of a larger-than-life ageless old man with a pure white beard? Yes, I am, you may say why that's silly. But is it really? He can move from here to there, he sees you while your sleeping, he knows when you're awake, he knows when you are bad or good, so be good for goodness sake. He is beyond generous and makes all the children a priority, he has helpers and the source of the gifts that are given out are produced by him and a collaboration of many. He is jolly and has a hardy laugh, so he has a sense of humor which shows he has great tolerance and is not petty. His garb is bright red and soft showing he is energetic and kind, he loves to surprise us and doesn't come through the front door but comes in mysterious ways. He is willing and grateful to receive when we think of him, leaving him milk and cookies; also, we acknowledge the animals by thinking of them and their needs by leaving a carrot or two. His white pure beard and hair not only shows his grandfatherly personification but also his Innocence and a truthful approachability.

So, do I believe in Santa, if you ask me, I will say a most definitive YES.

My Grandson initiated my sermon when he visited one day, he came to me and said, "Grandma, I know something", he hesitated a bit trying to decide if he should tell me his secret. I said, "What is it Xander?" With hesitation he leaned next to my ear and said, "Grandma there is no Santa". He stood back quickly to make sure I was okay and to see hopefully he didn't disappoint me, thinking I may not have known.

He's a tender-hearted little guy and he was being very careful not to shock me. I looked at him and said, "I believe in Santa, Xander". He just stood there looking, knowing there was more to come in my statement. So, I proceeded to tell him, adults dressed God in away a child could understand the glory of God, in all he does for us and in an image that all could understand. So yes, Xander, I do believe in Santa and to all who read this I will make that a proclamation - Santa Claus exists in all his glory and all the children in the world are seen, heard, loved no matter what.

All was given to us in the beginning, we were all born in abundance with our first gift, existence. So many stories, so many chapters, so many attempts to understand but my favorite is Santa Claus. Because the love of all and the celebration of family is the gift. Jesus was here to remind us to love one another, open the gift of acceptance and you will see Santa (God); this gift brought something more valuable than any earthly gem or gold. We have each other, family. And sent a great teacher, as God himself, Jesus Christ to remind us of that.

Does this exempt other stories and traditions, no because love came with many faces and names, the world has been seeded time and time again, the divine reality is not tied to humanity's ego, it dresses up and plays the part to show that there was never a vacancy in the ways of love. Some stories are bigger than others, so to argue who is right and who is wrong, is silly because it was always us. The goal was to evolve, unite as a cohesive and loving family, to put one hand out, if you are on the step about to lead your brother or sister forward, without ownership or greed. Or if on a step lower to reach and accept, without pride or ego getting in the way. Nothing comes from no effort; all comes from diligence and dedication. Our relationship with God is with self. Bottom line we are the gift and that has been the goal the whole entire time, since we arrived on this planet. So, with that being said, I want to thank you for being you and the gift you are.

I will finish by saying God Blessed you and still does.

I honestly and truly love you all, Merry Christ-Mass. Reverend April Leona Cunningham

I have asked a few Message Bearers to write a message to all of you. The closing prayer will be done by Reverend Antoinette DeLucchi.

### *Message Bearers*

Message 1 from Rev. Robert Anderson:

Spirit is showing me a sailing ship with Coy, George and Joe sailing and a lighthouse is guiding them....it is after a storm and the water is calm.....the flag is a sunflower.....and Rennie, Steve and Peter are handling the rigging.....the hold is full of supplies.....the sunset shines down pink on their faces.....just then a dove flies by.....and a new baby cries.....

Message 2 from Rev. Marreena Appleton:

Hello All- I was asked to deliver a message to the world and as I asked for guidance, what came up was " Find a new way." Find a new way to do things, to handle problems, to live, to find peace. I realize that we all have had to do our lives a bit differently during 2020, and yet, Spirit is saying we need to change even more for 2021. If you have not been taking precautions, you need to start. If you have not been getting along with someone, walk away, take a few breaths, and address the issue in a different way. If you are having financial difficulties, reach out-there is someone or an organization that can help. If you are warring within yourself, or with others, find something to believe in.

Infinite Intelligence, Divine Spirit, Mother/Father God - whatever you choose to name it - is with us and will see us through. However, it is up to us to make the effort to change. This past year has been difficult and tested us all and we are going to continue to be tested. We will need to rise up and meet the challenge. The energy around us continues to shift so let it motivate you to do and be more. Your faith will continue to guide you so please keep believing and let change be a part of you.

Message 3 from Jennifer (Cunningham) Price:

#### *Spirit of Christmas Past*

Before we look to the future we must look to the past.

Remember all who have sacrificed and forged a path for us.

Remember our roots with each other are deep and strong. Like the Oak, they are the roots that are interwoven and meshed together in a tightly woven fabric that support who we are now and shows us where we've grown from.

Remember we came here from God's love. We came to hold each other up and spread that love.

As long as we remember the truth and appreciate the love and sacrifice given, we will always have a future. - Jennifer Price

*'I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all year long.'* - Charles Dickens

Closing prayer lovingly given by Rev. Antoinette DeLucchi:

Dear Heavenly Father may we be filled with joy and love on this very special Christmas Day of giving...we are grateful for your Dear Son Jesus who said to us "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you." We know and believe Newness awaits each of us for the New Year of 2021 and we look forward to it with your many gifts of love that are special for each of us. Amen.