



Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador

December 25th, 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, we remember the hustle and bustle of that first Christmas, when Christ our Lord was born.

His birth went largely unnoticed. His prospects seemed modest at best. And yet, the heavens were opened, the angels rejoiced: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us see beyond the hustle and bustle that greets his coming. Let us look for that lowly manger bed on the outskirts of our own communities. We may well find that God points us away from the comforts that surround us in order to direct us to the needs of those who wait.

Christ comes not in robes and majesty, but in weakness and human need. He comes not in fame and popularity, but in the suffering of those who live and die on the outskirts of our society.

Come, therefore, let us adore him, let us serve him on bended knee.

Merry Christmas!

Fraternally in Christ,

Bishop Bart van Roijen

Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador

