

## ***Its Christmas!***

It's Christmas. Christ has come and we rejoice! The promises we remember through the Advent wreath – that the Light has come into the world, that Christ is eternal, that His promises are true, and that his love for us is never ending – have been fulfilled in the coming of Jesus in a Bethlehem stable. It is time to celebrate his coming! We should join the shepherds in sharing the good news that the Prince of Peace has come. We should take up his calling to join together to enable the coming of God's peace into the world!



### **Remember in Prayer:**

- **Earthquake in Northern California Tuesday morning** – Remember those affected. Extensive power outages, homes shaken off their foundations, some building collapses, watermain breaks, & road damage has been reported. There were at least 17 people injured.
- **Those recovering from other earthquakes** – especially the deadly one in Indonesia.
- **Nigeria** – remember the church in Nigeria as they complete their annual leadership transfer, & prepare for their centenary. Pray for evangelist Inuwa Hikama who was abducted on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Remember those facing continuing violence, disaster, flood, & inflation.
- **Iran** – there are ongoing peaceful protests against the extreme Islamic government. The government continues to respond to the protests with violence.
- **China** – all opposition to government policies is met with violence. The government has eased COVID rules, but now, the number of new COVID cases is overwhelming their medical system.
- **People still recovering from storms & flooding in the U.S. & elsewhere.** There have been new deadly tornados & snow storms. There is a major winter storm expected for Christmas.
- **Ukraine where war continues** – attacks against Ukrainian civilians are cutting power, heat, & water in the midst of winter. Anti-war protests in Russia are still met with repression.
- **Haiti** – cholera, gang violence, & political unrest continue.
- **Uganda** – give thanks that the Ebola outbreak seems to be under control.
- **Somalia** – relief help has reached parts of the country, so a full-blown famine may have been averted for now. However, food insecurity continues to be catastrophic. Many people are still hungry & a famine, within the next year, is still possible. How many children have already died is unknown. If the rains do not come so that the drought continues, the situation will worsen. Drought & ongoing violence has displaced millions.
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – 43,012 people have died in gun violence in 2022 (up 807 from last week), including 1,614 children (up 30 from last week). 37,622 people have been injured (up 615 from last week) including 4,365 children (up 71 from last week). 23,430 of the deaths are suicides (up 462 from last week). There have been 636 mass shootings in 2022 (8 were last week). (Gun Violence Archive statistics)
- **Peru** political unrest & violence continue following a failed coup attempt last week.
- **The continuing COVID Pandemic, combined with outbreaks of the RSV virus and flu.** In the U.S. we now have a 'Tripledemic.' There has been a spike in cases since Thanksgiving (45% more new cases & 22% more deaths). Now the number of cases of strep A infection among children is also growing.

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