

Homily Christmas 2022 Year A

The Gospel Tree *Anonymous*

There once was a shining Christmas tree standing out where all could see.
Its brilliance captured every eye and seemed to cheer each passer-by.

"The lights are so bright," they would say and hesitate to walk away.

The tree stood proud ablaze with light for every light was burning bright.

Then one bulb was heard to say "I'm tired of burning night and day;

I think I'll just go out and take a rest for I'm too tired to do my best;

Besides I am so very small I doubt if I'd be missed at all."

Then a child lovingly touched the light, "Look, mother, this one shines so very bright.

I think of all the lights upon the tree this one looks the best to me."

"Oh my goodness," said the light "I almost dimmed right out of sight.

I thought perhaps no one would care if I failed to shine my share."

With that a glorious brilliance came for every light had felt the same.

Our Gospel, like this Christmas tree, with little lights which are you and me,
we each have a space that we must fill with love, and lessons and good will.

Let's keep our tree ablaze with light, with testimonies burning bright.

For our Gospel is a living tree that lights the way to eternity.

Christmas is a gift of love wrapped in human flesh and tied with the strong promises of God.

Christmas is "glory to God," "good will to man," and "joy to the world."

Christmas is "peace on earth" for those who accept it and live in unity with God's will.

Christmas is a ringing bell calling a distraught humanity to gladness and hope.

Christmas is a glowing hearth gently placed in the winter of loneliness.

Christmas is an altar to which we can bring our heartache for comfort, our lostness for guidance, and our sin for forgiveness.

Christmas is the sparkle of anticipation and the steady light of faith in the eyes of a little child hearing the old, old story.

Christmas is the shining star of hope in the sky.

Christmas is more than words can tell, for it is a matter for the heart to receive, believe and understand.

Give us, O God, the vision which can see Your love in the world in spite of human failure.

Give us the faith to trust Your goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness.

Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts.

And show us what each of us can do to set forward the coming of the day of universal peace.

May the forgiving spirit of Him to whom we dedicate this season prevail again on earth.

May hunger disappear and terrorists cease their senseless acts.

May people live in freedom, worshiping as they see fit, loving others.

May the sanctity of the home be ever preserved. May peace, everlasting peace, reign supreme."

"We thank you for this place in which we dwell, for the love that unites us,

for the peace accorded us this day, for the hope with which we expect the morrow,

for the work, the health, the food and bright skies which make our lives

delightful for our friends in all areas of the earth."

"Somehow, not only for Christmas but all the long year through,

the joy that you give to others is the joy that comes back to you.

And the more you spend in blessing the poor and lonely and sad,

the more of your heart's possessing returns to you glad. John Greenleaf Whittier