WISHING YOU A HAPPY CHRISTMAS

May the light that God sent that first Christmas Day shine in your heart. May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace, May the gladness of Christmas give you hope, May the warmth of Christmas grant you love. And when the Christmas season has passed, May you carry its spirit and gladness throughout the year ahead.

THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS

Love came down at Christmas; Love all lovely, love divine; Love was born at Christmas, Stars and angels gave the sign. —*Christina Georgina Rossetti*

Christmas is the time to celebrate the day that the Creator of the universe sent His greatest gift to the world in the form of a weak and helpless baby. With that baby came a message of love, hope, and salvation for all people everywhere.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Loving God, help us to remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the songs of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings. May our minds be filled with grateful thoughts and our hearts with forgiveness, for Jesus' sake. Amen.—Robert Louis Stevenson Christmas celebrates a moment that changed the course of history. But it remains meaningless to you until it has changed the course of your life.

"The Dayspring from on high has visited us; to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace" (Luke 1:78–79).

LET MY LOVE WARM YOUR CHRISTMAS —A message from Jesus

No matter how down you may be, if you are out of work and have an empty wallet or bank account, if you're lonely or sick or have suffered personal loss, if war or hate or injustice or others' indifference has chilled your heart this Christmas, My love can change that.

Let My birth and all that it heralded be remembered today. Let My love fill you and give you purpose. Evils also plagued the world at the time of My birth and throughout My life on earth. Remember the miserable circumstances into which I was born. Think of the oppression of that time.

In the midst of such great darkness came the brightest light the world has ever known; amidst great suffering the greatest gift was given. My Father sent Me in the form of a weak and helpless baby to grow up and live as one of you and experience the same hurts you do, and to suffer at the hands of unjust men. I became one of you in order to save you.

Let the truth and love that I brought that first Christmas Day shine in your heart now. Let Me wipe away your fears and tears. Let My love warm your Christmas.

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