

From the Pastor's Desk

2024 Christmas Message

Dear friends,

This is my 9<sup>th</sup> Christmas at St. Philip Benizi and Our Lady of Peace. I pray that I can serve as your pastor one more year to make 10!!! However, it is possible that this may be my last Christmas message to you, and if so, I want you to know that it has been my honor to come here to these 2 churches and be your pastor.

During this time, I have come to see such beautiful souls and witness wonderful acts of kindness from you all. So many different cultures, relationships, and ideas all connected by His love.

I thank you all for all the kindness and love you have shown me and just know that **if** this is the last Christmas message from me, you will all remain in my prayers. I pray, I remain in your prayers for whatever my future may hold.

The incarnation is the foundation of the Christian faith. In Jesus, the eternal Word became flesh, dwelt among us, revealed God's glory, and brought grace and truth to a lost world. As we celebrate Christmas, let us marvel at the humility and majesty of Christ, who entered His creation to redeem it. And let us live in anticipation of the day when He will dwell with His people forever:

"Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God" (Revelation 21:3).

This is the true theology of Christmas: God became man so that we might dwell with Him in glory. Let us worship the incarnate Word, our Immanuel.

I wish you all merry Christmas!

Fr. Marreddy Allam