

## **A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM BISHOP ALLENDE**

*For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

[Isaiah 9:6 NRSV]

The words of the prophet Isaiah were written when the Assyrian armies had conquered the Kingdom of Israel and Jerusalem was under siege. I offer this bit of history not only because we hear the Isaiah passage so often this time of year, but also to establish that then, even as now, there was, in the world, an absence of hope.

Our problems and our fears – the troubles of the world are profound. And in the midst of it all, God sends us a gift in the form of a baby.

But this was no ordinary baby. This tiny, fragile, baby was sent to earth for a purpose. Not just so that we could feel good once a year, but for something much greater – to restore our relationship with God, and to renew our hope.

The God who created the human race now becomes a part of the very humanity He created!



And in his living among us, Jesus reveals to us a God we would otherwise not know. A God who made the world, a God who gives life and breath to all living creatures, a God who is above all things.

The whole world is the object of God's love, the love revealed in Jesus Christ – Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

The gift God gives us for Christmas is a gift that keeps on giving – a gift that becomes your own through faith in the Son, the Savior who was born to you on Christmas day.

Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift.

Blessed Christmas, everyone!

*+Bishop Abraham Allende*  
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