

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

“Let it **SNOW**, let it **SNOW**, let it **SNOW**”, no, no, no, don’t “let it **SNOW!!!**”

Well, it is too late now; we have already been receiving bits of **SNOW** here and there!!!

Therefore, looking at trees with no leaves and bits of **SNOW** on the ground it is likely safe to say that we have left **FALL** behind and are now entering a new season, **WINTER!!!**

“Let it **SNOW**, let it **SNOW**, let it **SNOW**” and it just might be that I can be found **“DREAMING of a WHITE CHRISTMAS”!!!**

Indeed, Christmas trees are beginning to appear, “Hallmark Channel” is showing “Christmas Movies” around the clock or “twenty-four seven”, homes are beginning to be decorated with lights and yard displays, stores are full of Christmas Sales, and we are just now sending out our December version of the Ely U.M.C. newsletter called the **“FISH”!!!**

Clearly, we will be able to quickly add to all this festivity type activity, Christmas Cards, Christmas Cookies, and radios with Christmas Music like **“RUDOLPH the RED NOSED REINDEER”** blaring out, and Christmas Presents, Presents, and Presents!!! Yup, **“TIS the SEASON”!!!**

So then, let us make a suggestion for the coming season as we prepare to celebrate Christmas with all its’ festivity type activity and **“HO, HO, HO”** type of pleasantries going on among us!!!

Rather than **“SUGAR PLUMS DANCING IN OUR HEADS”** may we find becoming front and center **“IN OUR HEADS”** a very special **“JOY TO THE WORLD”** which is found in God’s gracious Christmas Gift baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Bethlehem, Angels, Shepherds, and maybe even a gathering of Three Wise Men!!!

“WHAT CHILD IS THIS”, which has sparked all this joyous celebration? Well, it is **GOD’S SON** and our very precious **SAVIOR, JESUS CHIRST the LORD!!!** Indeed, Jesus born so long ago in that **“LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM”!!!**

There is no **GREATER GIFT**, no more beautifully wrapped package, no more beautiful ribbon or bow to be found under any Christmas Tree anywhere in any city, town, or village, than **GOD’S** gracious **GIFT of JESUS**, found **“AWAY IN A MANGER”!!!**

“O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL”; yes, let us come into this special new season of the year with hearts, minds, and spirits, focused anew on the **CHRIST of CHRISTmas!!!**

“HARK! the HERALD ANGELS SING” may each of us add our voices to the joyous celebration of the **CHRIST CHILD’S** birth and the wonder of **GOD’S** precious **LOVE** for each and every one of **US!!!**

Love in Christ,

Dana