



## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2023

As the festive lights twinkle and carols fill the air, we are reminded of the timeless story that lies at the heart of this season. It is a story that holds deep significance in our own Christian faith and in the hearts of millions around the globe.

More than two thousand years ago, in the humblest of settings, a child was born. A child who would grow up to change the course of history with his teachings of love, forgiveness, and peace. The birth of Jesus Christ in a simple manger under a starlit sky is a beacon of hope that continues to shine brightly in our world's darkest moments.

In these trying times, when conflict and despair seem to loom large, the story of Jesus's birth serves as a poignant reminder. It teaches us that even in the most modest beginnings, great things can emerge. It encourages us to believe in the miracle of change and the power of hope.

Today, as we bask in the festive spirit, our hearts also go out to those suffering in various parts of the world. The ongoing conflict in Gaza, a land that is so close to where the Christmas story unfolded, is a stark reminder of the world's need for the message of Christmas. The plight of Palestinians, living in fear and uncertainty, calls out for compassion and a renewed commitment to the pursuit of peace.

Similarly, the situation in Ukraine continues to weigh heavily on our collective conscience. The echoes of conflict there are a call to the world to remember our shared humanity and the importance of dialogue and understanding in resolving disputes.

This Christmas, let us reflect on the essence of peace and the vital role of kindness. Peace is not merely the absence of conflict but the presence of justice and the respect for the rights and dignity of every individual. We must remember that every person, irrespective of their gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, or disability, deserves to live in a world where they are treated with respect and kindness.

In our own lives, let us be the embodiment of the Christmas spirit. Let us reach out to those in need, offer a kind word to those who are suffering, and show empathy to those who are different from us. It is through these small acts of kindness that the true spirit of Christmas comes alive.

As we celebrate this season of joy, I call upon my fellow leaders and every individual around the world to embrace the spirit of Christmas. Let us commit to working towards a future where peace and love reign supreme. Let us pledge to break down the barriers that divide us and build bridges of understanding and cooperation.

In the words of Jesus Christ, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." Let this be our guiding principle as we navigate the challenges of our times.

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, let us carry forward the message of hope, love, and joy that Christmas embodies. May this season inspire us to dream of a world where peace prevails and kindness is the language spoken by all.

I extend my warmest wishes for a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to each and every one of you. May your homes be filled with joy, your hearts with love, and your lives with peace.

*Maximilian P.*