



## THE MONASTERY OF SAINT TIKHON OF ZADONSK

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*“Glory to God in the highest!” is heard from the incorporeal ones in Bethlehem today,  
addressed to Him Who was well pleased to become Peace on earth.*

*Now the Virgin is become more spacious than the heavens,  
for Light hath shone forth upon the benighted and lifted up the lowly  
who chant with the angels: Glory to God in the highest!*

Beloved of the Lord,

This Nativity Season we enter again into the miracle of our salvation as we behold the greatest miracle of all time: the union of God and man in the God-Man Jesus Christ.

Out of all the miracles we might consider in this world, by far the greatest of all is the incarnation because it is through it that our salvation is accomplished. It is through this that we are enabled to participate in the life of God Himself as Christ becomes the bridge between the created and the Uncreated. By this union of the divine and human in Christ, the harlot is brought to conversion, the thief enters into paradise and the redemption of the material world is accomplished, enabling it to become a spirit bearing reality that can save us (through the Eucharist, Baptism, etc.)

Let us consider: through the incarnation God is on earth and man is in heaven! It is because of this mystery that we are enabled to chant with the Angels: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth Peace, goodwill among men.” Christ is the Peace. Christ is the Goodwill of the Father to all and it is only in Him and with Him that we will be able to have the Peace for which we long and search for so ardently among the transient things of this world.

This Nativity Season, let us offer to God our hymn of praise and thanksgiving along with the Angels, “Glory to God in the Highest” for our salvation which comes through the miracle of the incarnation of the God-Man. Let us remember that this union of God and man is the opportunity for our own union with God. Let us not look for Peace and Goodwill anywhere else than the source, our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ. Let us rejoice in the Nativity together, offering to God the song of our heart, one which seeks daily our salvation in the only place it is to be found: the manger in Bethlehem where Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

In the new born Christ,

Archimandrite Sergius  
Abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery