



## 2024 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

FROM

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PRESIDENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA

***Theme: "What Is The True Meaning Of Christmas"***

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My Fellow Citizens and Residents of Dominica,

As President of the Commonwealth of Dominica, I am elated to again address you at Christmas. Christmas is undoubtedly one of the most uplifting events on both the religious and secular calendars in Dominica due to its profound significance. However, it is interesting to note how secularization is gradually diminishing the Christian essence of Christmas; and so this year I will address you on **"What is the true meaning of Christmas"**.

Luke 2:10-11 of the King James Version of the Bible states" And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas with all its lights, music, and festivities, we are reminded of the deep, eternal significance of this day. Christmas is so much more than presents and parties, so much more than just a season of cheer. At its core, Christmas is the

celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ—God coming to dwell among us, bringing salvation and hope to all of humanity.

But what is the true meaning of Christmas? Why do we celebrate this momentous occasion year after year? Let's reflect on the profound truths of Christmas, and in doing so, discover why it continues to be a source of great joy and hope for believers.

The celebration of Christmas reveals **the Fulfillment of God's Promise to mankind**. From the beginning of time, God promised to send a Savior to redeem the world. In Genesis 3:14-15, after Adam and Eve's fall in the Garden of Eden, God spoke of a future offspring who would crush the head of the serpent, defeating sin and death; also throughout the Old Testament, God repeatedly promised a Messiah—a Savior who would come to rescue His people from sin, oppression, and despair.

At Christmas, we celebrate the fulfillment of that promise. The birth of the baby in Bethlehem was not just a child, but the birth of the long-awaited Messiah. He was the embodiment of and the manifestation of God's love for a broken world. As Matthew 1:21 tells us, *"She shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins"*.

**Christmas Reveals God's Unfathomable Love.** The birth of Jesus reveals the depth of God's love for us. John 3:16 reminds us, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

Think about it—God sent His Son to be born as a helpless baby, not in a palace but in a humble manger, not to the powerful or the wealthy, but to ordinary people. The Creator of the universe, the King of Kings, chose to come to earth in the most vulnerable form imaginable.

This is love beyond comprehension. In Jesus, God took on our humanity, sharing in our struggles, our pain, and our joys. He came not to condemn, but to save. Christmas reminds us that God's love is so great that He was willing to become one of us, to live among us, to suffer for us, and to die for us.

**Christmas is the Birth of Hope for the World.** In the birth of Jesus, a new hope was born into the world. The angel's message to the shepherds in Luke 2:10-11 tells us, "*I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.*" Jesus was not just a Savior for a select few but for all people. The light of Christ shines into the darkness of our world, offering a hope that cannot be extinguished by any circumstance, challenge, or hardship.

Christmas reminds us that no matter how broken our world may seem, no matter how dark the night, the light of Christ shines brightly. The world may be filled with confusion, pain, and uncertainty, but Jesus offers us peace, joy, and the hope of eternal life. The birth of Jesus marked the dawn of a new era—a new beginning for all who would receive Him.

**Christmas Calls Us to Love and Serve Others.** Christmas is not just about receiving; it's also about giving. It's about reflecting on the love and generosity that God showed us when He gave His Son. As Jesus said in John 13:34, "*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.*"

The Christmas season presents us with an opportunity to love and serve others, especially those in need. It is the perfect time to remember the less fortunate, the marginalized, the sick and shut-in and the forgotten. Just as the wise men brought gifts to Jesus, we are called to bring and share the gift of love, kindness, and compassion with others.

Christmas reminds us that our story does not end with a baby in a manger. It is a promise that the King who was born in Bethlehem will one day return to bring about a new heaven and a new earth, where peace and justice will reign forever. Until that day comes, we are called to live in the light of this hope, sharing the good news of Jesus with a world that desperately needs it.

So, what is the true meaning of Christmas? It is the celebration of God's fulfillment of His promise to send a Savior to redeem the world. It is the revelation of God's incredible love for us. It is the birth of hope and joy for all people and it is also a call to love and serve others.

As we celebrate this Christmas season, let us give thanks for the gift of Jesus, and let us share that gift with the world by loving one another, living in hope, and proclaiming the good news of the Savior who was born for us.

To those who are working on Christmas Day, you are in our thoughts and prayers. We appreciate your dedication and hard work.

To those who are not in the best of health, our thoughts are with you. May you experience God's healing.

My husband Gilbert and other members of my family join me in extending to all of you and your family, our best wishes for a Blessed and Joyous Christmas Season and a new year filled with an abundance of God's love and blessings.

May the joy, peace, and hope of Christmas fill your hearts today and always.

I thank you.