



**CHRIST IS BORN!
GLORIFY HIM!**

KONTAKION

Tone 3

*Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One,
And the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One!*

Angels with shepherds glorify Him!

The wise men journey with a star!

Since for our sake the Eternal God was born as a little Child!

Today is proclaimed an event that is beyond human comprehension. One silent night in Bethlehem burst forth with an announcement that forever changed humanity: the uncreated Son of God, "Light from Light, true God of true God" took human flesh, was born of a woman, to illumine every one of us and to restore humanity to its original state.

St. John the Evangelist makes it clear that when the Word of God came, He came unto His own – that is, to us. Sadly, both then and now, not all of those to whom He comes accept Him, but to those "who do accept Him, He gives the right to become the children of God" (John 1:12). The Holy Evangelist continues: "For God so loved the world that He gave His Only-Begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him might have eternal life" (John 3:16). With this short verse, St. John describes what happened in the moment when Divine Love appeared and God Eternal became one of us, so that we might become communicants of His eternal Life, and be raised up to be gods by His Grace.

I often ask myself: Have I remained faithful to the words I spoke just before my baptism when I clothed myself in Christ: "I accept Him and I believe in Him as King and as God"? This receiving of the Word incarnate demands that we build our lives on the strong foundation of the Gospel, rather than being like those who cry out in a loud voice "My Lord, My Lord...", but who do not and never did know Him.

As your Archpastor, I call upon you: Stand firm in your faith. Even in the most difficult situations, carry your cross with Christian humility, following the example of our Saviour. For in humility "the Eternal God was born as a little Child." In so doing, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, manifests to us that He is the One revealing to the world the Love and Mercy of God, our Heavenly Father.

During these holy days of the Nativity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is born for us and for our salvation, we pray that He will grant us all His Peace and His



Joy. Let us, therefore, seek Him out as did the shepherds and wise men, and proclaim our praise and glory along with that of the angelic powers: "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and good will to men."

May the Love of the New-Born Christ fill your homes and lives during this holy season and throughout the coming New Year and Feast of Theophany. All of you are in my prayers.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Irénée".

+ IRÉNÉE Évêque de Québec/Bishop of Québec
Administrateur de l'Archidiocèse du Canada (ÉOA)
Administrator of the Archdiocese of Canada (OCA)