

Christmas and Memories

Christmas 2019 is now a memory. It is time to begin thinking about disposing of the live tree or storing the artificial one that has graced the home during this season.

The wrapping paper from opened presents is in the trash, awaiting pickup. At some point in the next few days, tinsel and garlands, candles and bells will be tucked away until the next yuletide.

But memories, in large measure, define our celebration. They become a part of the escalation of emotions surrounding this holiday. So, as I reflect on Christmas, I am grateful for ...



- The gifts and the expressed thoughts of family and friends.
- The lights and the decorations that add sparkle to a world often given to too much routine and little imagination.
- The wonder in the eyes of children as they approach a Christmas tree featuring a bounty of gifts.
- An array of culinary delights, but – more importantly – the care with which they were prepared and presented to loved ones.
- Love for one another, expressed in season's greetings, a tender embrace or a warm handshake.
- Christmas cards that carry stated wishes for peace and goodwill.
- An outpouring of compassion, shown in shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child and other charitable endeavors.
- Acts of sacrifice and selflessness from parents who desire the best for their offspring, no matter what the cost to them.
- Time spent with a spouse, treasured moments that produce joy in living.
- The message of hope and the promise of eternal life that the Christ Child brought, sealed by His life, His death, His resurrection and offered to all who will believe in Him.
- Glory accorded to the Prince of Peace, first heralded by angels, and this month rising through concerts by church choirs, in the music of recordings and the broadcast media, proclaimed in print and in the spoken word of public gatherings.

Praise be to God – for Christmas and the memories it brings!

– Beecher Hunter