

The Magic of Christmas

It is Christmas Eve. The enchantment of the holiday is approaching its zenith.

What is the magic of Christmas – this one time of the year that somehow, inexplicably, casts a spell over mankind, softens the heart and engenders a remarkable selflessness? Perhaps it is ...

- The togetherness of family, whether assembled in front of crackling logs burning in a fireplace or around a heavily laden dinner table.
- The recollections of childhood – of decorating a tree and the unforgettable fragrance of cedar or pine, of acting in a drama at school or church, of pressing a nose against a cold window pane to see the snowflakes falling outside.
- The array of bowls and platters of food that bring delight to the eyes first, and then to the stomach.
- The attraction of music by choirs in auditoriums and the peal of bells in towers around the city.
- The wonder in the eyes of children who see Jolly Old St. Nicholas for the first time in a department store.
- The glee ringing in the voices and shining on the faces of youngsters finding their gaily wrapped presents underneath the tree.
- The cheer in the wish for a “Merry Christmas!”
- The geyser-like gush of purpose and love arising within from service at a community kitchen.
- The glow of homes dressed in holiday finery, lit by candles and bulbs, producing joy in passersby.
- The prayer of a grandfather beseeching blessings for his family.
- The tender kiss beneath the mistletoe of a young couple in love.
- The retelling of the biblical story and the fervent prayer for “peace on earth, goodwill toward men.”



But above all else, the magic of Christmas is generated by its reason for being – the birth of the Christ Child, cradled in a lowly manger in Bethlehem and watched over by Mary and Joseph, His earthly parents, in an event that brought “a multitude of the heavenly host” to announce His arrival.

God sent His only begotten Son to fulfill a plan for reconciliation and redemption for a lost and dying world. God’s free gift – the acceptance of His Son – is eternal life with Him.

What an extraordinary present that is. It is, indeed, the magic of Christmas.

--Beecher Hunter