

A Carol Service Address

A168 Sunday Address 22nd December 1946 St Mary Abbots Place, London
Christmas Service

The text of this address is as issued in the magazine Angelus after it was given, apart from correction of errors

Text: from Angelus, December 1947

Context: although there is no date on the printed version, it had by this time become normal to print the Christmas address a year later so that the magazine had a real Christmas feeling. The address mentions carols about the angels being sung – doubtless the White Eagle Choir had been practising for months, but there is no indication of which were performed, or sung by the congregation. Maybe one was ‘Angels from the realms of glory’.

General Notes: a short address as was usual for Christmas, as the carols would have dominated the service. It is nonetheless complete and, in that sense, perfect.

References: none

White Eagle’s Address:

We speak from the world of spirit. We bring you greetings, love and blessing. At this season you are all thinking of Christmas preparations. We see from our spiritual life this Christmas tree laden with gifts for the children as an expression of your kindness and of the Christmas spirit. You are all wishing each other a happy Christmas. We would like you also to remember the invisible worlds and the mystic Presence which is upon the earth at this season. It is true that the Christ spirit is born anew in human hearts but also true that invisible hosts draw near to the earth at Christmas, You have been listening to the carols telling of the presence of angels, but you do not always stop to think of the mighty forces which these angels bring. Remember the angelic hosts. When you give a Christmas party you ask all your friends. When they arrive at your house you throw wide the door in welcome. Many times spirit visitors and angels pay their visits, but instead of opening you close the door of your soul and bar it. Invisible friends cannot gain admittance. Will you remember at Christmas to fling wide the door to angelic visitors who come today exactly as they came to the shepherds of long ago?

Christmas is a festival as old as the world. We could tell you of ceremonies which have taken place throughout the ages in temples and in woodland groves of all races; we could tell you about sun worship and also of the lighting of little lights in the temples. Maybe you have not thought of the origin of the custom. It comes from antiquity. The little lights on your tree signify the light of the Sun, of the Christ, in the human heart. Christmas time is a season for illumination. What is this light which lights the human heart? It is kindness, love. If you love, your whole being radiates light.

We would draw your attention to the story of the star in the heavens which guided the Wise Men to the birthplace of Christ. Remember, my children when you look at a star it is actually a sun full of life. Not quite the same sort of life that exists on the earth but a life which has gradually come to a state of perfection through the light of the supreme Son of God. At Christmas you think of the Son of God as a child, as a babe; He is all that – He is simple and loving and pure and innocent; but He is also a great Sun in the heavens which gives life to all creatures. The Son of God is both human and divine, is simple and lowly and gentle as little babe and infinitely great powerful and life-giving. The stars in the heavens are actually vast

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suns, centres of spiritual power and life, and this is what the earth will eventually become - yet another centre of life and power and light.

Our closing words this night would tell you that that light is love; and that Christ-mass is the season for lighting the little lights in the human heart. *Let the light shine!* Let the light of the Christ love, the Christ spirit, shine forth from you and you cannot fail to share in that happiness that you are all wishing each other. Give out the light of love and you will give out happiness; if you give you cannot fail to be happy. We do not only wish you, but we *know* that you will have a happy Christmas. Look to the invisible, to the spirit, and on Christmas morning may you all respond to the mystical blessing which will fall upon the earth. You will hear the song of the angels; you will be conscious of the presence of all those whom you love. Remember that in spirit there is no separation. Spirit is the source of life; spirit is the Christ. Open your doors wide to your heavenly visitors and be recharged by the spirit of the Son of God, by the life of the Christ, the power, the glory and the peace.

Behold the vast invisible company! Remember the world is full of people all very much the same as you. You are all hoping for better days. You can give those about you better days, for the Christ has given you the Christmas gift of goodwill. May the brotherhood of all men bless the earth. Peace on earth ... peace ... goodwill. You won't forget your invisible visitors on Christmas Day, will you? We shall be there. We shall be there.

A very blessed and happy Christmas to every one of you. The New Year holds great blessing for all men. Goodbye.

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Christ Mass, truth in carols, open your heart, ancient ceremonies