

Homecoming

A Message for Christmas and Epiphany from the Bishop of Chicago



Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ in this Christmas and Epiphany season in the Church. In many parts of Latin America and this country, Christians celebrate Las Posadas, which is a way of observing the days leading up to the Christmas feast from December 16 to December 24. The custom is for families to travel between homes. Different roles — the part of Joseph, the part of Mary, the part of the innkeeper — taken up by different members of the community. Joseph and Mary go from house to house looking for a place, looking for the inn as Luke's gospel tells us, where the baby Jesus might be born. Until at last they find the designated house where the party is to be held and where the birth of Jesus can be celebrated fully.

That homecoming is the theme I want to hold out to you in this Christmas and Epiphany season. Christ finding a home in our hearts. We look for Christ where

Christ has made his home, in the hearts of our sisters and brothers across our communities and across the globe. At our recent Diocesan Convention, three new congregations found a home here in the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, and we rejoice and welcome them completely into the family. We recognize the presence of Christ in one another, in them. And we celebrate the many ways that Jesus Christ has come among us.

This Christmas season I invite you to find a home for Jesus in all those places in the world, perhaps particularly the places where you might be inclined least likely to look for him, in the homeless, the hungry, in those who are lonely, those who find themselves on the margins of this world. Find Jesus Christ there. Look for him. Knock on the door. And when you find him, serve him, and welcome him, and thank him for his great love.

Merry Christmas and happy Epiphany in this season of the church's year.

Jeffrey D. Lee
Bishop of Chicago

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