



THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT THOMAS MORE

December 24, 2020

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." Luke 2:11

In the well-known Christmas special, "A Charlie Brown Christmas," Linus repeats these words from Luke, reminding us "what Christmas is all about." Now it is my turn to echo this great refrain. Heralded by angels, adored and worshiped by Kings and shepherds, people of earthly power and humble hearts, this vulnerable child is given to us; born to die for our sins so that we can live forever with Him.

Today we celebrate a new life and a new hope; yet, today in our world there is much to cause anxiety or fear. But my sisters and brothers, let us listen to the words of the angels who said to Mary, to Joseph, to shepherds, and to us: "Do not be afraid." Though there is much beyond our control and it is easy to sink into apathy or indifference, there are angels, still, who call us out to meet our God. Though there may be sadness or sickness in your life, though there may be division or hurt in your relationships, the heralds ask us to join them. They may be obvious in sight or sound or they may come quietly to you in a sense of peace in your soul or love in your heart. Hopefully, they come to you here at the Eucharistic Table.

Wherever or however they come to you, I pray you welcome them. I pray that you will not be afraid, for our God is with us always. I pray you hear the joyous chorus of *Gloria in excelsis Deo* well beyond today.

To all of you, I wish a blessed Christmas.

In Christ,

Very Rev. Patrick L. Posey, V.F.
Rector