

# The Lakeside



## Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday December 23, 2024 - I John 4:9

*9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.*

Read I John 4 for meditation and inspiration.



## GOODWILL TO MEN

Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

"the real Light which gives light to every man" came into the world (John 1:9).

Poet Edgar Guest wrote a Christmas poem that captures a bit of the beautiful spirit that captures many hearts. He writes:

*A man is at his finest  
towards the finish of the year;  
He is almost what he should be  
when the Christmas season is here;  
Then he's thinking more of others  
than he's thought the months before,  
And the laughter of his children  
is a joy worth toiling for.  
He is less a selfish creature  
than at any other time;  
When the Christmas spirit rules him  
he comes close to the sublime.*



There is a "Peanuts" comic strip in which little Lucy says that Christmas is a time for kindness and goodwill when we accept one another -- welcoming others into our homes and lives. Charlie Brown responds, saying, "Why just Christmas? Why can't we be kind and accepting and hospitable all through the year?" To which Lucy replies, "What are you, some kind of religious fanatic?"

In December, the weather becomes colder, and people become warmer. Colorful decorations give homes, offices, and stores their annual festival look. Christmas Carols ring out in the downtown shops and restaurants. It's that time of year when strangers are more likely to talk to each other than at other times. And friends who haven't been in touch all year send cards full of news and warm greetings.

Why so much goodwill in the Season we call Christmas? Why all the celebrating? Because a little more than two thousand years ago, planet earth was visited by God in a unique way. In the birth of the Lord Jesus, we see God reaching out to reveal His Goodness, Mercy, Grace, Forgiving Love to enfold the earth and all that is within it.

May you too be captured by the Christmas Spirit of our Savior Jesus the

Christ of God. In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger".

Roger