

FEAR NOT!

I never really understood the angel's declaration to Mary to "be not afraid," because as a curious person, my first reaction to seeing an angel would be "COOL!" Yes, an angel is a big, bright and scary being, but being afraid would not likely be my first emotion.

However, life can be difficult, so I feel blessed by the good news that we don't need to be afraid anymore when Christ enters our world. This entire Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season is one of releasing the worry that comes with daily living.



The carols express it well: "Oh, tidings of comfort and joy".... God rest ye merry gentlemen, let (note the command form) nothing you dismay...Joy to the world" (instead of what you're worried about). And don't forget the angel announcing "On earth peace, good will to all."

But still life is packed with worry, and often as adults we pack more stress upon ourselves for the Christmas season, striving to create a "perfect" holiday for one reason or another, or stretching our finances, or trying to fit in too many things, or taking on the burden to make many people happy.

So this season, let all be calm and all be bright to truly worship the King. And let you be the gift, in peace.