

Joint Christmas Message

The [@churchmoderator](#) and [@leocushley](#) have written a joint Christmas message. It is strong symbol of Christian unity in a troubled world. [#Christmas2023](#) [#DoNotBeAfraid](#) <https://t.co/ogvqdNh00Y>
— Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton (@churchmoderator) [December 12, 2023](#)

"The light shines in the darkness." (*Gospel of John 1:5*)

"As we approach together the season of Christmas, we do so in company with all who share our faith and with people of good will everywhere.

Our faith is in the One who was born in Bethlehem two thousand years ago and that is a faith shared across the face of the global space we inhabit.

We write as representatives of two traditions within the Christian faith and affirm our common faith in the One who is the light of the world: Jesus Christ.

We confess with sorrow that too often we have allowed ourselves to be divided by that which is different, rather than being united by that which we hold together in common – our faith in Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

By the grace of God, we are changing and we pray that the light of God may now shine more clearly through us.

We say this because we are certain that our world stands more in need of light than of darkness.

Sadly, there is too much darkness in our world today.

Whether it be here in Scotland or in broken and divided lands across the world, we need more light.

We need more light to overcome conflict and to heal ancient wounds.

We need more light to enable us to better feed the hungry and to relieve the suffering of others.

We need more light to enable us to be better stewards of creation and to reap the harvest of life.

We say this in the sure knowledge that, even in the darkest of times, the light of God still shines.

As much as the wise men of ancient times needed light from above to guide them to the place where the Christ-child was born, we need light to guide us today.

The simplicity of the traditional nativity scene, with the star shining above, rather stands in contrast with the hustle and bustle of much of the contemporary festive season as we try to reconcile the many demands placed upon our time.

As we struggle through the gathering gloom of a short December day, the light is short and the night seems long.

It is perhaps especially then that we need light to guide us.

Knowing this to be so, we say again that what we hold together in common is our faith in Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Knowing this to be so, we invite you to walk in the light of God first revealed in Bethlehem two thousand years ago.

God's light has surely come into our world