



A Christmas Message

December 1979

It happens again.

The story refuses to be untold.

The story continues once again this year.

It is the story of God's love for His people told through the lives of human beings such as ourselves.

It is the story of Mary and Joseph who have been chosen to make the Lord present in the world.

The promise of centuries past would be fulfilled.

Jesus Christ, the Messiah, would be born.

The story continues today in Eastern Montana.

God's love is obvious in the concrete forms of blessing with which He has graced our story - the blessings of family, friends, material goods, our faith.

And yet there are many whose stories and whose lives He has not touched.

So we pray for them that they too might receive the gifts which the Lord graciously offers to each of us.

And I this Christmas as Bishop am most conscious of how the story of my life has become part of the story of life in Eastern Montana.

I feel blessed and privileged.

I feel honored and graced.

I feel gifted and loved.

To one and all, may I extend to you my prayer that the Lord will continue to be part of the story of your lives, to be the source of faith and hope and love for each of you, to give meaning and significance to who you are and what you are about.

The story line of each of our lives meets at Bethlehem. And the cry of a child in the stillness of night has changed the story of each of our lives.

Have a very blessed and Happy Christmas and may the New Year be filled with joy and happiness!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style.

The Most Reverend Thomas J. Murphy
Bishop of Great Falls, MT