



Rex Williams <bishoprexawilliams@gmail.com>

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## Give a Gift to Jesus

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**Rex Williams** <noreply@churchofjesuschrist.org>

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Reply-To: bishoprexawilliams@gmail.com

To: bishoprexawilliams@gmail.com

Hi dear friend,

Merry Christmas to you and your family! Only one more week of joyous celebration (and rushing to get that last gift) until Christmas. I hope everything works out for you to have a wonderful Christmas.

I know there might be struggles or disappointments that cause you to have a less than ideal Christmas. My heart goes out to you, and my hope is that you'll find hope in Christ. There are things planned for your future that you have no idea how glorious and joyous they will be. Think about how awful Christ's followers must have felt when he was crucified. Talk about a loss of hope. They didn't know the future. Sure, now we can easily look back and say, oh yeah, it was all part of the plan. But that wasn't so apparent to them then.

The same is true for your life right now. No matter what stress, disappointment, or tragedy you're experiencing, you can be assured there will be a glorious resolution in the future. Because of Christ. It may be a near future, or maybe more distant, but having hope in Christ means you believe Him when he said, "Come unto me... and I will give you rest." (Matt 11:28)

In fact, it's such a glorious future, and even a current peace, we can experience through Christ that we invite all to "Come unto Christ, who is the Holy One of Israel, and partake of his salvation, and the power of his redemption. Yea, come unto him, and offer your whole souls as an offering unto him." (Omni 1:26)

As Christians, disciples or followers of Christ, this invitation has always been our charge. But we know that's a significant request: Offer your whole soul to Him?

Well, when we talk about the ultimate reward, it does require the ultimate sacrifice. And Christ paid it for us. So we only owe him everything.

But that might be too much to fathom, so let's start with something. What one thing can you give to show Christ your appreciation for what He did for you?

This is what the tradition of exchanging gifts on Christmas can represent. Not only did our Father in Heaven give us the gift of Christ as a baby born in a manger, but then Jesus Christ gave us the ultimate gift of His atonement and life so that we could live again, joyfully in His presence.

Gifts are awesome. That's why we want all to come and see, come and help, and come and belong to His community and receive the gifts that come from that.

Thank you for the gifts of your service and support you've given me and the ward during these unique times these past couple of years.

Have a Merry Christmas.

Bishop Williams

- The Eastmont ward has invited us to participate with them for their annual Adult Christmas Fireside on Sunday (12/19) at 6:00pm at the Stake Center. Everyone is invited to bring a treat to share.
- Next Sunday (12/26) we will only have one hour of church, just Sacrament meeting at our regular time 9:00am.
- The first Sunday in January (1/2/22) we will start our services at a new time, 10:30am! We hope to see you there!

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You received this email because you made your email address available to your local Church leaders. It was sent by Rex Williams, whose calling is Bishop.