

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma



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Jon B. Greene
Grand Recorder

Thursday, November 10, 2022

GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 10, SERIES 2022-2023

To: The Officers of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma,
The Past Grand Commanders of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma,
and all Officers and Sir Knights of the Constituent Commanderies of Knights Templar of Oklahoma
and to Whomever it May Concern

This General order consists of the Christmas Observance Messages, which contains the Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment's Response, the Toast to the Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma, and the Grand Commanders Response.

The Christmas Observance will be recorded and presented at our December Grand Commanders Chat, on Sunday, December 11, 2022, at 7:00 pm. More information will follow.

This General Oder shall be read at the head of the lines in each Constituent Commandery at your Commanderies Christmas Observance or the first Stated Conclave after its receipt.

Sir Knight James R. Taylor, Jr.
Right Eminent Grand Commander

Attest:

Jon B. Greene
Grand Recorder

Grand Encampment of Knights Templar



THE APARTMENTS OF THE GRAND PRELATE

and

THE RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Year of Our Lord 2022 to all valiant and magnanimous Knights of the Temple, wheresoever dispersed throughout Christendom ~ Salutations and Knightly Greetings:

A TOAST TO OUR MOST EMINENT GRAND MASTER CHRISTMAS 2022

Most Eminent Grand Master, greetings in the name of the Blessed Child of Bethlehem.

On behalf of the Sir Knights of our Grand Encampment, we raise a Toast in your honor in this your first Christmas as our Grand Master. Your First Christmas as our Grand Master echoes the words sung by the Angels to Shepherds who “abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night,” “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.”

Across our great nation and all places where the banner of our our Grand Encampment reaches around the globe, Sir Knights along with their families join together to celebrate this holy season.

Like the Angels, we bid to you “good tidings of great joy,” joining our hearts with yours, we celebrate those tidings. “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

He is the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

With you, Grand Master, we raise our voices in celebration. We commend to your prayers all the Sir Knights of our great Order, especially those who are homebound and unable to enjoy Knightly Fellowship due to health. We remember in our meditations those who God has summoned home. We pray God’s richest blessings upon our great Order, our great charities, you, Grand Master, and all who labor for the cause of Christ.

A Toast to you Grand Master!

In Christ’s Service,

The Reverend Sir Knight Terry L. Plemons, KGC, Chairman
The Committee on Religious Activities
The Reverend Robert J.F. Elsner
The Reverend Paul D. Erickson



GRAND MASTER'S RESPONSE

CHRISTMAS 2022

To the Right Eminent Grand Prelate, to Members of the Committee on Religious Activities, and to all Knights wheresoever dispersed:

Knightly greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

A most sincere and heartfelt thank you from Lady Kim and me to the Right Eminent Grand Prelate, and the members of the Committee on Religious Activities for their warm and gracious toast this Christmas Season in the year of our Lord, 2022.

The toast offered is, I believe, a testament to the heart of all true believers and members of our beloved Order. The sentiment is such that I am not only deeply impressed by the noble appeal it makes but also by its urge for Christian Knights to renew with vigor their efforts to affect the ideals of the Order of Knights Templar.

At no time within the memory of our Sir Knights has our world and our Order swayed as much as now and lamentably there appears to be a letting down in matters spiritual. This is the season when we are inspired by the birth of the New Light, the New Life, the New Law from which comes the New Commandment – that you love one another.

Our hearts quickened by that command should spur every Templar to stand as a challenge against any force that would undermine the faith of our fathers. Let us not weaken, nor be discouraged; let us not forget that calm succeeds the storm and peace, comfort, and happiness will come to him who adheres to the right.

The Officers of the Grand Encampment and their ladies join with Lady Kim and me in wishing each of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Courteously,

⚔️ *David J. Kussman*

David J. Kussman, GCT
Grand Master



The foregoing toast to the Most Eminent Grand Master and his response thereto are transmitted to you with the request that you extend an invitation through the proper offices to all Sir Knights within your jurisdiction to join in the sentiments thus conveyed at some convenient hour, on or near the birthday of Christ, commonly called Christmas Day, December twenty-fifth, in the Year of Grace 2022.

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in the State of Oklahoma

From the Apartments of the Grand Prelate

And the Religious Activities Committee

On behalf of all Sir Knights in Oklahoma

A Toast to Our Grand Commander

Christmas 2022

In the Second Chapter of the Gospel of Luke the good news of our Savior's arrival occurs: "And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." It is our firm belief as Christian Knights, that this is the greatest event that has ever occurred on earth -- A gift of Peace, Dedication, and Sacrifice from our Father.

Your guiding Scripture passage this year is from II Peter 1:5-8: "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." This passage should serve to remind us that as Christian Knights, we should dedicate ourselves to the improvement of our lives so that we may "Fear not: proclaim and celebrate our faith."

Right Eminent Grand Commander James R. Taylor, Jr., we join you in being inspired by our Lord and Savior as you have led this Grand Commandery and display the light of God's love that you always have with you. During this time of celebrating the birth of our Savior, the Religious Activities Committee is both honored and pleased, on behalf of all Sir Knights residing in Oklahoma, to wish for you, your family and extended family a very Blessed Christmas; and our prayer is that you will continue to receive our Father's Comfort and Support throughout the New Year as you continue making a difference leading us on an ever-challenging path.

In His Service;

Sir Knight Steven Cox, Grand Prelate

Religious Activities Committee:

Justin McGee

Jon B. Greene

Grand Commanders Response

To the Excellent Grand Prelate, and Sir Knights:

Lady Gage and I want to thank the Excellent Grand Prelate for his most gracious toast this Christmas Season.

As I was pondering my response to the toast, I asked myself the following question, "What is Christmas and what has it become?" Let us remember how it started. Joseph with his pregnant wife Mary traveled to Bethlehem. When they arrived at the house of Joseph's parents, there was no room for them. I'd like for you to ponder this for a moment. Their son married a woman who was expecting a baby, which was not a child of Joseph's. They were not afforded shelter by his parents in which to stay the night. With no room for Mary and Joseph, they find a cave to stay in which was used by his family as a stable for their animals. When Jesus is born, he is laid in a manger made of stone so the animals could not knock it over. It was through these humble origins our Lord and Savior was born.

In our current times, we spend numerous hours shopping so that we can out gift or make sure our gifts are the most expensive. We make large grocery shopping trips to the store to plan and prepare a meal fit for a King, then many times frantically run back to the store because something was forgotten. This is what Christmas has become, a holiday of excesses. Many have forgotten the reason for the season, the birth of our Lord and Savior. Sir Knights, as Christians, this should be first on our minds not only this time of year but throughout the entire year.

We are taught in the scriptures, John 3:15-17 15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world: but that the world through him might be saved.

This, Sir Knights, is the reason for the season - The gift of eternal life through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As we gather around the table this Christmas, remember the humble origins of our Savior and think about what the first Christmas must have been like.

Our family's prayer is that you and your families have a wonderful Christmas season.

May Peace, Love and Joy follow through the coming year.

In His Service,
James R. Taylor, Jr.
R.: E.: Grand Commander