

Promises of Peace

By President Henry B. Eyring

Second Counselor in the First Presidency

From the 2016 First Presidency Christmas Devotional.

Our hope is to capture the true spirit of Christmas for ourselves and for those we love. That spirit is characterized by peace—not political peace, for the Savior was born at a time of fear and unrest so great that His family had to flee as refugees into Egypt; not economic peace, for He was born in a stable and laid in a humble manger; and not even the peace that comes when all the packages are wrapped, the trees decorated, and the table set, because that peace is only momentary. The peace of Christmas is “the peace of God, which passeth all understanding” (Philippians 4:7). It is the peace that the Apostle Paul promised would “keep [our] hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7). And Paul was right. That peace we seek is only through and because of Jesus Christ.

To all who have come into mortality, the Savior said, “In the world ye shall have tribulation” (John 16:33). Yet He gave this wonderful promise to His disciples during His mortal ministry:

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you” (John 14:27). It is a comfort to know that this promise of personal peace continues for all of His covenant disciples today.

It is a promise given even on the very night of His birth. When heavenly messengers heralded the birth of the Savior, they declared, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” (Luke 2:14).

The Savior’s birth is the gift that makes it possible for the Father to give us “peace in this world, and eternal life in the world to come” (Doctrine and Covenants 59:23). We shouted for joy in the spirit world when we heard of that promise. Peace and joy come to us again when we hear words sung proclaiming that God’s loving promise was kept:

All is calm, all is bright. . . .

Glories stream from heaven afar;

Heav’nly hosts sing Alleluia!

Christ, the Savior, is born!¹ **NE**

NOTE

1. “Silent Night,” *Hymns*, no. 204.

Received the call to be a member of the **First Presidency** while bringing in the trash can.



As a young man, he **worked with a contractor** building footings and foundations.



Born in **Princeton, New Jersey**, on May 31, 1933.



Pres.

HENRY B. EYRING



Because of **gas restrictions during WWII**, the Eyrings held Church services in their home.

He was **Commissioner of Church Education** for 18 years.



Has **6 children**.

His hobbies include **painting with watercolor** and **wood carving**.



Sustained to the **Quorum of the Twelve Apostles** on April 7, 1995.



He received **master's and doctoral degrees** in business from Harvard University.



Married Kathleen Johnson in the **Logan Utah Temple** in July 1962.



His **first date** with his wife, Kathy, was **playing a tennis match**.



He has **served as a Counselor** to three Church Presidents:

2nd Counselor to President Gordon B. Hinckley

2 **1st** Counselor to President Thomas S. Monson

3 **2nd** Counselor to President Russell M. Nelson



Played **high school basketball**.



Served two years in the **United States Air Force**.