

In the two thousand years since Jesus was born, we have experienced the glory of humanity. We have advanced in health, charity, communication, and artistic expression. We have gained deeper spiritual insight. We have made the world safer for children and delightful for the elderly. We ourselves in our generation alone have not accomplished this. We have taken part in a great trajectory of human life which has come to value all that is, all that was, and all that can be.

At the center of this accomplishment is Jesus Christ. God, the creator of all, assumed human form two thousand years ago. The air we breathe, the thoughts we think, the people we meet are all infused with the Spirit of God's creation. But in one incredible way, God took on human form and that has changed how we think and act. We understand better how close God is to us, how much God loves us, and how much we must love in turn. Paul tells the Ephesians that God set forth the mystery of his will in Jesus Christ as a plan for the fullness of times. God had a plan. That plan was revealed in Jesus. It will reach its fulfillment in two important ways: redemption and forgiveness.

What we celebrate in the year 2000 is a year of jubilee, a year in which we acknowledge the plan of God made manifest in Christ, a year infused with holiness because of the greatness of its numbers.

Our responsibility this holy year is simple. First we profess our faith in Jesus Christ. Then we become agents of Christ in the ministry of redemption and forgiveness. My sisters and brothers this morning we are a part of history, but now we must do something more. We must make history. We can make history in our families and our community by offering reconciliation with Jesus Christ. Let us forgive one another. Let us find inner peace. Let us put down our weapons of words and wars.

As we take the wrapper off the 2000s, we will meet Jesus Christ who stands at the center of time. Let us begin this thousand years in love for all and celebrate the joy of Jesus.