



## Christmas Greetings From Pastor Rich December 23, 2020

Saludos en el nombre de Jesucristo!

As all of you know, this week I have the honor of celebrating my first Christmas as your pastor. While I am not yet in New Mexico, I am confident that as long as I am living, I will always remember my first Christmas with you. I say this with so much confidence, because while I have celebrated almost fifty Christmases in my life, the ones that stick out in my memory are all those “first” Christmases—the first Christmas that Kelly and I celebrated as a married couple, the first Christmas we celebrated after our first child was born, the first Christmas we celebrated after our second child was born, and so forth.

I think it is natural to have fond memories of those “first” Christmases when we started a new chapter in our lives, because Christmas, by its very nature, is the celebration of something new. On Christmas, we celebrate the fact that in a single moment in history, God came down to earth in the form of a human being and the world has never been the same since. There have been a lot of changes and new beginnings for the world in the past two thousand years, but the world has never seen a change as big as this one. I hope that each of us has a chance to think about this change over Christmas and no matter what gifts we give or receive, may we remember that the world has never seen a gift as great as this one.

I also hope that everyone reading this is able to join us tomorrow evening at 7pm for our Christmas Eve service over Zoom. While this will be a virtual service, we are going to keep the tradition alive of singing Silent Night/Noche de Paz at the close of the service. In keeping with this tradition, you are also invited to turn off your lights

at home and sing with us by candlelight, if you wish to do so.

Finally, all of us in the Holmes family want to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas!

Blessings,

Pastor Rich