



**Rt.Rev.D.Daniel Jayaraj**

Bishop / President  
Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I extend my heartfelt Christmas and New Year greetings on behalf of the Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Christ Jesus who came as the true light of the world to dispel the darkness, is still with us as "Immanuel"! The year 2021 had been a year of testing time for all of us. We were directly or indirectly affected by this epidemic and its ravaging effects. Further, we also had to face natural fury and its devastations. As a church, we ardently pray for protection of all people. In all possible means, we have extended support to thousands in the community through relief and rehabilitation work which was supported by local congregations, and mission partners. Church had seen growth in terms of new churches, congregations, etc. Women of our Church had actively participated in empowering themselves and the church. The gathering of church pastors was conducted with great success. We have stood forth amidst all odds, and discharged our duties as an extension of God's hand.

I would like to briefly share from Luke 2:9-14 about the shepherds guarding their sheep who became greatly afraid to see the angel and the glory of the Lord around him. But they started rejoicing when they heard the angel chorus singing the good news of Christ's birth and praised God. There is a close relationship between humankind and singing, and between singing and worship. When a child is born, we sing lullabies, and when a person dies, we sing songs of lament.

**A Song of Comfort : Luke 2:10** "Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people." When we are afraid, as we hear and sing songs of praise, it helps to remove our fears and comforts us.

**A Song of Joy:** The angel of the Lord announced to the shepherds, "good tidings of great joy which will be to all people." Moses, Miriam and the Israelites too sang songs of praise when they crossed the Red sea. (Ex. 15:1,21)

**A Song of Salvation:** A saviour was born to redeem us from sin. We, who have been saved thus, must continue to walk in the way of salvation. Whatever be the problems we face, Christ is able to set us free.

I share you the TELC's watch word for 2022 from Job 20:28: "You will succeed in whatever you choose to do, and light will shine on the road ahead of you".

May this Christmas be a time of comfort, a time of Joy and a time of salvation! May the Triune God bless us to live as people who are saved from every sin, bondage, fear and worries! Amen!

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