

**Christmas Eve 2019 Meditation**  
***“The Lord Is Come: Incarnate Joy”***

King Charles XI of Sweden was born in November 1655. His father King Charles X died in January of 1660 when his son was only 4 years old.

Young Charles’ education was left at the care of the regents appointed by his father. His mother, the Queen, was the formal regent until Charles XI attained his majority on December 18, 1672. ...

A legend in Sweden tells the story of Charles XI travelling around the country dressed as a farmer or simple traveler. In the legend he is referred to as the Greycoat. He dressed like an average person in a grey coat to discover and identify corruption and oppression against the populace.

There are many stories about him arriving in villages looking for corrupt church officials and punishing them. One anecdote tells of him visiting a village with a church in splendid condition and the priest living in poverty. Continuing, the king found in the next village a church in disrepair and a priest living lavishly. The king solved the problem in those situations by

switching the priests, giving the poor priest the lavish living condition and a church the king was certain he would rebuild.

The legend of King Charles XI Greycoat provides an alternative approach to ruling as a king. Most kings throughout history have approached their rule in a very self-centered and selfish manner. As the old adage revealed – power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Yet, the legend of King Charles XI shows a different way of relating between the ruler and the ruled.

Of course, there have been a few rulers, who were concerned for the welfare and wellbeing of their citizens, instead of only gaining more wealth and power for themselves. Indeed, tonight, we are celebrating the Birth of the most Powerful and Important Ruler in this world and he was even more radical in the way he related to his subjects than King Charles XI or anyone like him. King Charles XI humbled himself to move among his people but he was never harmed by such activities. On the other hand,

Jesus Christ, our King, not only humbled himself but, also, suffered greatly, including dying for the welfare and wellbeing of All People!

The reason King Charles XI put on his grey coat and moved among his subjects was to help and protect them from injustice and oppression.

Mary, Jesus' Mother, sang of her Unabashed Joy when she experienced her initial reunion with her elderly and miraculously pregnant cousin, Elizabeth, because that event confirmed for her the Truth about her pregnancy, which the angel Gabriel had revealed to her. Among other things, Mary sang about what God was going to do through the Birth of her son, the Son of God. Mary shared, "***My heart praises the Lord; my soul is glad because of God my Savior, for He has remembered me, His lowly servant! ...***

***He shows mercy to those who honor Him.***

***He has stretched out His mighty arm  
and scattered the proud with all their plans.***

***He has brought down mighty kings from their thrones,***

*and lifted up the lowly.*

*He has filled the hungry with good things,*

*and sent the rich away with empty hands.”*

Yes, God’s Plan through the Birth, Life, Ministry, Death, Resurrection, and Return of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, includes the Total Revelation of the Fulfilled Kingdom of God and the end of Injustice, Oppression, Poverty, Illness, Violence, War, and Death!

Furthermore, as our Scriptures from last Sunday reminded us, the Birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah that God’s Promised Messiah would be “‘*Immanuel*’ (which means, ‘*God is with us*’).” The Birth of Jesus – the Messiah was not only the birth of a king, who would live among us and experience life as we do but, in fact, in his Birth – the “Word became flesh” – the Incarnation of God – for our Divine Parent has come among us “incognito” but without the grey coat!

Tonight, let us remember God has given us “**Incarnate Joy**”, for in the Birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Divine Parent has come among us and continues to be with us in the Holy Spirit! Through that Christ Child, we have been shown our God Agape Loves, Forgives, Heals, and Invites and Welcomes us and All People into a New Relationship with our Divine Parent and the New Life in Jesus Christ. Let our Incarnate Joy transform our lives, so we live out the New Relationship of God’s Agape Love with God and All People and the New Life in Christ. Let us offer God’s Good News, Invitation, and Welcome to All People, so they can share in our Incarnate Joy! Amen.