CHAPLAIN MESSAGE: “O LITTLE TOWN”

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays Spokane County Family,

Even in 2020, with all the challenges and difficulties that we have had to endure this year; we can still be Merry and Happy. Yet, as I say that, the question pops to mind “how?” . How do we do that, be happy in these trying times that have stretched us to what might feel like our breaking point? Is it the presents? The tree and lights? Is it Saint Nick? What is it about this time of year that reminds us how to choose a merry heart?

My friends, I believe that one of our most well known Christmas carols reveals to us some of the ways we can find the merriness that will transcend any situation we could find ourselves in. This Christmas carol is “O Little Town of Bethlehem”, and as we hum this tune it in our mind (I am singing it right now) there are a few parts of the lyrics that I will guide us to. In the third verse, it begins with “How silently, how silently, The wondrous Gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts, the blessings of His heaven.” Understanding that God wants to give us, in every stage of our life journey, His blessings from heaven, can turn around any situation; even from darkness to Light. Verse three ends with “Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.” I love this song, and the humble reminder that Christ is The Gift from God Who will enter into our hearts, lives, family, and every area He is invited in and received.

In the final stanza of this beloved and historical Christmas carol, it closes by calling us to imagine the multitude of angels singing the encouraging message over 2000 years ago. “We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!” Immanuel means “God with us”. This message is just as encouraging to us today, that God desires to be with us in it all. As we finish out this year and enjoy the rest of December, never forget the powerful meaning this can have for each of us; to know that we are not alone, and that God is with us in our little town. Amen.

God Bless, Chaplain Robert Kinnune