



ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟΝ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ  
ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΕΛΒΕΤΙΑΣ

PATRIARCAT ECUMÉNIQUE  
ARCHEVÊCHÉ DE SUISSE

ÖKUMENISCHES PATRIARCHAT  
METROPOLIE DER SCHWEIZ

PATRIARCATO ECUMENICO  
ARCIVESCOVADO DI SVIZZERA

## CHRISTMAS 2023

### Christmas Message by Metropolitan Maxime of Switzerland

Beloved Children in Christ,

As we contemplate the icon of the Nativity during these blessed days ahead, we can perceive two realities:

- the real incarnation of God which highlights the divinity and humanity of the Incarnate Word,
- the consequences of this event for us: the renewal of the world, because Christ born in Bethlehem, died on the cross and resurrected, delivers man from his chains and defeats sin.

We are no longer alone in this sinful world, *“unto us a child is born”*. Isaiah wrote: *“The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light...unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...”* (Is 9:1-5).

Let us imitate the shepherds, who immediately recognize, and without doubt, the divine intervention in their daily lives and welcome the word of the Angel with faith.

Let us imitate these first witnesses who spread the Good News of the coming of the Saviour in the world. Let us thus become artisans of Peace. Let us be bearers of hope, making visible and concrete the joy that the coming of the Word brings to all men.

Dear children, I wish you and all those who are dear to you a very beautiful and bright Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you and protect you.

Christmas, 2023

✝ Metropolitan Maxime of Switzerland