



HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!



The following appeared today, December 25, 2024, in the Minnesota StarTribune. It is a reprint of a Christmas Benediction which appeared in the Journal, a paper that would eventually become the Minnesota Star Tribune. It appeared on Christmas Eve in 1937 under the headline "Benediction on Christmas Eve." This was considered important for readership in the depth of the Great Depression. It's a simple message. Perhaps it's relevant for you today. It is for me.

Benediction on Christmas Eve

"Silent Night, Holy Night."

We hear it at this time of year everywhere. It is man's benediction to man.

The song needs no words. The very melody suffices to soften a calloused heart; its simple, throbbing chords send a thrill down into the fingertips.

It speaks the language of every civilized people – not alone Christians – and, taking no account of race, color, creed or other social conditions, bids every man be kind and humble. How can anyone, hearing that noble music as he must, contend himself to be cruel, greedy, mean or little – or even smug?

We need Silent Night these days quite as much as ever; and if Christmas meant nothing more than its gentle whispering to the souls of men, it would be worth clinging to forever.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

Steve Bakke