

**SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2010**  
**THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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Dear Friends in Our Lord Jesus:

On Christmas Day of 1974, the United States sent an unusual, three-minute holiday message into deep space at the speed of light.

The mysterious transmission was sent in mathematical code toward a cluster of 300,000 stars on the remote fringe of the Milky Way, a cluster known as Messier 13. The message described the configuration of our solar system, the biological makeup of the inhabitants of our planet, the date of transmission, and our globe's 1974 population.

With great scientific simplicity, the message was addressed only to "Occupants." And with the message traveling at the speed of light -- 186,000 miles per second -- scientists do not anticipate that it will reach the star cluster for some 25,000 earth years. If the message is received, it is assumed that a return message would take just as long to arrive back at planet Earth. So, with great respect, a reply to our message is requested by Christmas of the year 51,974 A.D.

While our Star Trek transmission is a bit unusual, it is not the most amazing message ever sent across time and space. The most miraculous message ever received on planet Earth arrived 2,000 years ago -- and NOT in complicated mathematical code, but in direct, plain, easy-to-understand language.

The message received was this: We are not alone. God Himself has come to dwell with us.

The Gospel of John describes the heavenly transmission in this manner: "And the Word (of God) became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. And we have beheld His glory -- glory as of the only begotten Son of the Father" (John 1:14-15). As we begin each day, let us turn our hearts and minds to that miraculous message from God -- a transmission so powerful that it changed the course of human history in every direction, past, present, and future

And if we take a moment to listen, we can still pick up the signal . . . loud and clear.

**-- The Very Rev. Dr. Steve Sellers+**