



THE UNITING
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA

22nd December 2022

From the Office of the Moderator - UPCSA

Dear Presbyterians

The Christmas Message from the Moderator of General Assembly - Right Rev SJ Mtetwa December 2022

Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, and goodwill to all humanity (Luke 2:8-14)

Another Christmas is upon us, fellow Presbyterians. We thank God for another year of grace across all corners of our denomination - the UPCSA. Another merciful close to a year where our church members and leaders remained faithful to the most urgent message of the gospel: Jesus is our Lord and our Saviour.

This year has not been without gut-wrenching challenges. As our hope was rekindled with the relent of Covid-19, jobs lost in the last two years have not been regained; businesses that folded up have not restarted; families destroyed have not been reunited; resultant emotional and mental unwellness has not been cured. So even after the pain induced by Covid-19 and other diseases has subsided, the financial and human damage in all our congregations is still with us.

In all the difficulties we have personally faced and the uncertainties we have encountered this year, we can still not be blinded to God's divine and boundless grace over all our situations. Even after the continuous tension occasioned by the election of new leaders in the African National Congress in South Africa this week, God Immanuel has been, and is still, with us.

For our various existential circumstances wherever we are, let us join the Angels and Shepherds and the whole throng of heavenly hosts in the imminent birth of our Messiah: Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and goodwill to all of humanity. This is my wish and prayer for each and all of you, that you be blessed abundantly during this time of family and peace and goodwill.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you Presbyterians.

With much love

The Right Rev SJ Mtetwa
Moderator of General Assembly
Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa