His Holiness Patriarch Kirill's Christmas greeting to heads of non-Orthodox Churches celebrating Christmas according to Gregorian Calendar

His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia sent Christmas greetings to Pope Francis; Archbishop Justin Welby, head of the Anglican Communion; Archbishop Kari Mäkinen, head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Finland; Praeses Nikolaus Schneider, President of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany; and to the heads of other non-Orthodox Christian Churches. The text of the message is given below:

I cordially greet you with the great Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*The Savior's coming into the world opened a new era in our history, having revealed God's ineffable mercy: "T*he people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up" (Matthew 4:16).

Besides political and economic tribulations, which humankind has experienced for centuries, modern society is suffering a deep moral crisis. That is why the Church should raise her voice and call people to follow Christ Who is "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).

I prayerfully wish you radiant Christmas joy and God's help in your lofty ministry. And I wish peace and prosperity to your flock.

With love in the Lord,

+KIRILL

Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia

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