

Remarkable NASA Christmas Message Still Resonates 56 Years After Apollo 8

In December 1968, NASA launched the first manned mission to the moon. No one, not even the astronauts aboard, was certain that they'd be able to return safely. Their journey, the most hazardous and dangerous ever embarked upon, took them to the boundaries of another world, and, even more remarkably, brought peace to their own.

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It was shortly after 5:30 a.m. on Christmas Eve that something remarkable happened. After spotting the barren, far side of the moon for the first time, the astronauts onboard captured a photo that has since become known as "Earthrise." For all the turmoil, tragedy and political tumult the world had experienced during 1968, this iconic, indelible image captured the beauty and fragility of our home planet.

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And then, with more than one billion people watching around the world on television, the astronauts delivered a message to the largest audience in human history. It was a sentiment for all mankind and one straight from the pages of the Bible. As the nation waited in prayerful consideration, astronauts Frank Borman, Jim Lovell and Bill Anders spoke the following words:

*In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth.
And the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the*

face of the waters.

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

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