**Full text of Queen's 2019 Christmas speech**

"As a child, I never imagined that one day a man would walk on the moon. Yet this year we marked the 50th anniversary of the faous Apollo 11 mission.

"As those historic pictures were beamed back to Earth, millions of us sat transfixed to our television screens, as we watched Neil Armstrong taking a small step for man and a giant **leap** for mankind - and, **indeed, for womankind**. It's a reminder for us all that giant leaps often start with small steps.

"This year we marked another important anniversary: D-Day. On 6th June 1944, some 156,000 British, Canadian and American forces landed in northern France. It was the largest ever **seaborne** invasion and was **delayed** due to bad [weather](https://www.mirror.co.uk/all-about/weather).

"I well remember the look of **concern** on my father's face. He knew the secret D-Day plans but could of course **share that burden** with no one.

"For the 75th anniversary of that decisive battle, in a true spirit of reconciliation, those who had formally been **sworn enemies** came together in friendly commemorations **either side** of the Channel, putting past differences behind them.

"Such reconciliation **seldom**[[1]](#footnote-1) happens **overnight**. It takes patience and time to rebuild trust, and progress often comes through small steps.

"Since the end of the Second World War, many charities, groups and worked to promote peace and unity around the world, bringing together organisations have those who have been on opposing sides.

"By being **willing** to put past differences behind us and move forward together, we honour the freedom and democracy once won for us at so great a cost.

"The challenges many people face today may be different to those once faced by my generation, but I have been struck by how new generations have brought a similar sense of purpose to **issues** such as protecting our environment and our climate.

"My family and I are also inspired by the men and women of our emergency services and armed forces; and at Christmas we remember all those **on duty** at home and abroad, who are helping those in need and keeping us and our families safe and secure.

"Two hundred years on from the birth of my great, great grandmother, Queen Victoria, Prince Philip and I have been delighted to welcome our eighth great grandchild into our family.

"Of course, at the heart of the Christmas story lies the birth of a child: a seemingly small and insignificant step overlooked by many in Bethlehem.

"But in time, through his teaching and by his example, Jesus Christ would show the world how small steps taken in faith and in hope **can overcome** long-held differences **and deep-seated** divisions to bring harmony and understanding.

"Many of us already try to follow in his footsteps. The path, of course, is not always **smooth**, and may at times this year have felt quite **bumpy** but small steps can make a world of difference.---–--

"As Christmas **dawned**, church congregations around the world joined in singing It Came Upon The Midnight Clear. Like many timeless carols, it speaks not just of the coming of Jesus Christ into a divided world, many years ago, but also of the relevance, even today, of the angel's message of peace and goodwill.

"It's a **timely reminder** of what positive things can be achieved when people set aside past differences and come together in the spirit of friendship and reconciliation. And, as we all look forward to the start of a new decade, it's worth remembering that it is often the small steps, not the giant leaps that bring about the most **lasting** change.

"And so, I wish you all a very happy Christmas."

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)