

Christmas

“And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.” Luke 1:50

With these words, Mary the mother of Jesus, began to prophesy, as the Holy Spirit revealed to her, God’s wonderful plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. That which God had promised already in the garden of Eden was now to be manifested in his only begotten Son. So great is God’s love that he could not bear to see mankind eternally separated from him through the fall of Adam. Thus God, in Christ Jesus, would reconcile the world unto himself.

The beautiful Christmas story has been retold by believers throughout the years. It stirs one’s heart with inward rejoicing to think that even after so many generations we can still embrace Bethlehem’s Child as our personal Lord and Savior. Truly the same Spirit that prompted Mary’s words, in her day, also lives in believing hearts yet today. Speaking of our Lord she said, *“And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.” Luke 1:50* Thus we can confidently echo the words of the song writer; “Brightly beams our Father’s mercy from his lighthouse evermore ---.” The resulting message rings clearly: grace, mercy, forgiveness, faith, righteousness, peace, and joy witnessed by the Holy Spirit.

In our text we learn that God’s mercy is from generation to generation upon those who fear him. This fear we possess as believers is not a slavish or terrorizing fear that drives one away from our loving Heavenly Father but rather instills a true desire to follow, in obedience, to his holy Word. It can be likened to the relationship children have with their Christian parents wherein there is a fear of bringing agony and pain to the ones who love us and desire to lead us in the right way. We thus fear and love God because he first loved us and continues to love us. John, in his epistle says, *“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.” 1 John 4:18* Consider the great love of God for you and me in that he sent his only begotten Son into this sin cursed world on that first Christmas morning to bring eternal salvation for all who will believe. That *“perfect love of God then is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.” Rom.5:5*

Can we ever comprehend the love and mercy which has been given us in Christ Jesus, the perfect and greatest gift of all? The obvious answer is no. But we must say with the Apostle Paul, *“For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.” 1 Cor.13:12* Oh, the wonder of it all! Let us simply join our hearts with David and conclude by saying, *“O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever.” Ps.107:1* Dear believer, the Christmas gift of salvation is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord who has

forgiven all our sins and covered them with his own holy, precious blood.

May the blessedness of Christ in Christmas be revealed in greater measure to each of our hearts this year and let us pray earnestly for those who have not yet come to repentance and living faith, that they too, may know the true meaning of Christmas. May you have a most blessed Christmas.

Ken Storm - pastor

Dec 7	Ken Storm	Holy Communion
Dec 14	Chad Kuivanen	
Dec 14	Sunday School Christmas Program 4pm. Meal and fellowship following.	
Dec 21	Ken Storm	Medical Care 3pm, Charles Korhonen
Dec 24	Ken Storm	7pm, Caroling at church before service begins.
Dec 28	Charles Korhonen	No potluck meal
Dec 31	Gathering at the Feedmill Cafe'. 6pm.	

Looking Ahead:

Telephone “call in line” - to be Discontinued January 2015

Please use our website <http://www.tapiolachurch.org/> to listen to sermons live and previous sermons. If there is a problem with the live sermon, there is a 'chat' feature you may use to let the person broadcasting the sermon know. Please let me know if you have any questions on how to listen to sermons. - Jennifer jmiller@mtu.edu

You're invited to our Sunday School Program we'd love to see you there!

Zachary, Eric, Clayton, Blade, Carly, Maelene, William, Naomi, JoAndra, Kally, Emma, Elizabeth, Lacy, Justus, Ralyn, Marjorie, Talon, Malaki, Jax and Janet (the Sunday School Students)



Fall/Winter Schedule

Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 9:45am
 Sunday Service 11:00am.

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Online Broadcasts

From our webpage: <http://www.tapiolachurch.org/> you will see the mixlr live audio – we will be 'on the air' during our church services. Previous sermons will be published to as well. Use the 'chat feature if there are problems listening to the service.

TELECONFERENCE Local: **334-6338** Long Distance: **1-906-334-6338** After “greeting”, enter Conference I.D. No. **44444**

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