

*The Joy of Christmas*

***“And the angel of the Lord said unto them, Fear not: for I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11***

As the shepherds beheld the angel of the Lord they were at first fearful but when they heard the message of good tidings their fear gave way to curiosity and joy. How joyful today are the days of Advent as we await, with happy hearts, the arrival of Christmas. So it has been from the days of our childhood and from generation to generation during this special season. Even for the children of the world it appears to be a happy time, but sadly, often for the wrong reasons. However, the joy God’s children experience in their hearts far surpasses the short-lived happiness prompted from a happy state of mind derived from outward celebrations, parties, and fairytale fantasies. So often the holy name of Jesus is completely omitted from such gatherings. Thanks to our gracious Heavenly Father who has instilled within each believing heart the true reason for joy which is Jesus, God’s perfect gift for our salvation. We pray that God would give us a compelling desire to retell this wondrous story to our children and to everyone so that all may know him.

With the birth of Jesus came the fulfillment of God’s promise, *“Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come saith the Lord of hosts,” Mal. 3:1* It is in this very promise of God that many of the prophets of old spoke, with joy, as they told of Christ’s coming. Wonderful and heart-warming it is, in times like these, to revisit those prophesies in the Holy Scriptures and to witness their fulfillment with the arrival of Bethlehem’s Child.

Although each year we rejoice with expectant hearts as we await the celebration of this blessed event, the most important matter of all is that we all would be

found awaiting the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us together be reminded that Jesus is soon coming again and we now live in the Advent of his second coming. The solemn question we must truthfully answer in our own hearts is this: “Am I prepared for Christ’s coming?” All too often we find that the world has become too close to us and our hearts and minds are drawn unto the things that are temporal. If you have thus been deceived by Satan, dear friend, consider carefully God’s loving reminder to, *“Set your affections things above, not on things on the earth.” Col. 3:2* This world is not our home, *“For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.” Heb. 13:14* Thanks be to God, his grace and forgiveness is still offered to the repentant sinner who desires to turn from the paths of sin and darkness in this world to the way of truth and life. In the name and precious reconciling blood of our Savior all sin is proclaimed forgiven by his servants and with the eyes of living faith one now beholds Bethlehem’s Child, the Savior of the mankind. The good tidings of great joy become near and dear to the heart of the redeemed.

Let us rejoice again during this Christmas season and each and every day. Soon the eternal Christmas will dawn. May each of you have a most blessed Christmas in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ken Storm - pastor

Dec 4	Ken Storm	Holy Communion
Dec 11	Bruce Sarkkila	Christmas Program 4pm, Meal following
Dec 18	Ken Storm	
Dec 24	Chad Kuivanen	6:30 caroling, 7pm service
Dec 25	Ken Storm	

**Winter Schedule**

Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 9:45am

Church at 11am

**Bible Study at 7pm on Wednesday.**

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