

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

'Christmas Morning

By Pastor Kirk Kasson, Congregational Church, Almena

Christmas: Gifts. Shopping, buying, hiding. Wrapping. Waiting.

Christmas: Bleary eyes. Footed P.J.s. Presents! This one's for me! This one's for you! Anticipation. Unwrapping. Opening. Does someone have a pocket knife? Excitement. "I love it!" Hugs. Smiles. Cocoa, eggnog, cinnamon rolls. Christmas

Christmas. Young girl. Angel. "Do not be afraid." Prophecy. Pledge. Fear. Faith.

Fiance. Confusion. Explanation. Disbelief. Disappointment. Fear. Anger. Change of plans.

A dream. An angel. "Do not be afraid." Fear. Belief. Trust. Change of plans. Marriage.

Taxes. A census. A journey. A ninety mile walk with a pregnant woman. Donkey? Probably not. Bathroom stops? Plenty. And not a 7-11 in sight. Tired.

We're there. Crowded village becomes a city. Find us a place to stay. I'm not tired. No room at the inn. Rest here. Sleep.

"Joseph, It's time." Eyes open. Panic. Fear. Grab the suitcase? Drive to the hospital? Uh, no. Get a doctor? A midwife? No. Find a shelter? A stable. It'll have to do. Now what? Wait. Comfort. "Hold my hand." "Joseph, I'm scared." "I know. Don't be afraid." Wait. Worry. Push! Wait, Worry. Push! Pray. "Joseph, would you get that goat out of my face!" Shoo the goat. Push! Rest. Breathe. Wait. Worry. Why now? Why here? What if something goes

wrong? Pray. The goat is back. Tie up the stupid goat. Push! Hours. Hand holding. Talking. Praying. Sweating. Comforting, waiting, pushing. The head. "I see the head!" He has hair!" "You can do it. We're almost there!" We who?

The shoulders. The baby. Fluids. Umbilical cord. It's a boy! He's excited. She's exhausted. She holds out her arms. He gives her their son. She holds him. She smiles. Jesus. His name is Jesus For unto you a son is born. Unto you a son

is given. And the word became flesh. And we beheld his glory. His name is Jesus.

Shepherds. "Shepherds?" They want to see the baby. How do they know about the baby? "I have no idea. Do you want me to send them away?" No. They can see the baby.

Shepherds. Baby. Swaddling clothes. Manger. Check, check, check. That angel was right. Angel? Did you say something about an angel? Yeah. There was this angel. Terrifying. Huge. Holy. First thing he said was "Do not be afraid." Then he told us to come to town, that a girl had a baby that is the Messiah. The Savior. The Christ. He said we'd know it was the baby if we found it wrapped in clothes and lying in a feed bunk. So we figure this must be him. He's beautiful ma'am. Thank you. They bow before the baby. They say a prayer. They're worshipping my baby. They stand. They give their blessings and go back to their pastures. Mary, what do you think about their story? They said they saw an angel. I know. I've seen an angel. I have too. He told me "Do not be afraid." And Mary pondered all these things in her heart.

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us. And we beheld his glory. Glory of the only begotten, full of grace, and truth.

Merry Christmas.



Loving and Giving

It's the season of gift giving...to friends, to family, to strangers. We can give without loving, but we cannot love without giving. A loving gift may be material or something as simple as a smile, a hug or a listening ear. God's gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, was the greatest gift of love and sacrifice; when we accept God's gift we have everything, without it we are the poorest of the poor. Thank God for His wondrous gift; praise Him as you worship this season of joy.

Weekly Scripture Reading						
Isaiah	Isaiah	Luke	Luke	Luke	Luke	Luke
7.1-25	8.11-9.7	1.1-25	1.26-38	1.39-56	1.57-80	2.1-20

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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