



A Time for Celebration
December 6, 2015
Lynn Haven United Methodist Church

Introduction

There are many reasons people celebrate Christmas. However, the true reason for celebration is rooted in the reality that was proclaimed by the angels on the first Christmas: “Don’t be afraid! I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior – yes, the Messiah, the Lord – has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!” (Luke 2:10b-11 NLT). Jesus’ birth and entrance into the world changed everything. Christmas is a time for celebration because it shows that God loves us, God is with us, and God is for us.

Discussion Questions

1. What does Jesus’s birth mean to you? Have you ever become de-sensitized towards it?
2. Read John 3:16; 1 John 4:9-10; and John 15:13. How does God’s great love for us differ from how we love others?
3. Based on your understanding of how much God loves you, in what ways can you look at the baby in the manger in a new and fresh way this Christmas? Think about Jesus’s life from the manger to the cross and the ultimate purpose for why He was sent to Earth.
4. Many people do not experience joy and happiness at Christmastime because they feel anxious, fearful, lonely, or depressed. However, those emotions are all feelings which are unreliable. Discuss Rick Warren’s idea about the meaning of fear: False Evidence Appearing Real. What are ways to overcome this fear?
5. How do Psalm 139:7 and Matthew 1:23b remind us that we are never alone and that God is always with us?
6. The “Incarnation” means God in human form or lit., “in the flesh.” The Word became a human being and lived here with us. Read Hebrews 2:14-18. What does it mean to you that Jesus experienced every human feeling there is?
7. Read Romans 8:31b and 1 John 4:4. How might these verses help someone understand that God is not only *with* us, but He is *for* us as well?

Conclusion

Why is Christmas a time for celebration? It’s because there is good news of great joy for all people- a Savior has been born, who is Christ the Lord.