

Christmas Day

December 25, 2011

A SAVIOR IS BORN

Luke 2:8-20

NO TIME FOR A SERMON

It's a Time for Awesome Silence!

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people" (Luke 2:10).

It's a Time to Feel the Gift of Christmas!

It's a time to discover a presence.

It will sneak up on you at unexpected moments.

Until we experience a true "Christmas moment," Christmas is just crazy and chaotic.

IT'S TIME FOR A SAVIOR

What We Need!

Savior means "One who delivers his people."

"Give him the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sins"
(Matthew 1:21).

Think about Joseph's Christmas.

Is everything in your life turning out the way you thought it would or should?

He came to deliver us from our time of trouble.

Think about Mary's Christmas.

Jesus entered a world of unthinkable evil.

Remember "the slaughter of innocents."

He came to deliver us from our agony.

Think about Jesus' Christmas.

To be a child is to be dependent, defenseless, fragile, and vulnerable.

Do you ever feel weak, helpless, and hopeless?

He came to deliver us from our helplessness.

IT'S TIME FOR YOU

Which Road Will You Take?

One road leads to Herod.

One road leads to Jesus.

One road will put you on your knees.

One road will lift you up, and then let you down.

The Christmas Moment.

Nothing will ever make sense until we experience a true "Christmas moment!"

Luke 2:8-20

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to men
on whom his favor rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what they had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Pastoral Prayer

O Loving God, how quietly the wondrous gift was given, and gifts are still given when we grow quiet enough to listen and receive them. In this holy moment, we open our hearts to the gift of your healing presence among us.

Be with us now as in the privacy of our own hearts, we give thanks for the joys we have known at Christmas. (*Pray Silently*)

Father, in the midst of joy, there are those who have reasons for sadness. Hear us as we remember them. (*Pray Silently*)

Through it all, O God, through joy and sorrow, through moments of victory and times of defeat, we see our own need for a rebirth of Christ in our shadowed lives. Hear us as we invite him in to some specific corner of our lives. (*Pray Silently*)

Now bind us together, O Lord, as our Christmas worship continues, and make us into a family which both believes and serves, we pray in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

