

Rev. Dan Welch Christmas Eve 12-24-25

"Beautiful News to Hear Again" Text: Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20

"She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Lk 2:7). This Christmas, we joyfully receive that greatest of all gifts wrapped in swaddling cloths and announced by the angel to the Shepherds: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." 2000 years later, and half a world away, that's still the best news anyone anywhere has ever heard. Tonight, you and I needed to hear it again.

I. The Good News is that unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given. Now, plenty of babies have been swaddled up on the day of their birth, but only **one** came from heaven with the plan of being wrapped in linen and laid in a tomb on the day of His death, having atoned for the sins of the whole world, a Savior, Christ, the Lord. That is the one whose birth we celebrate tonight, the one whom the angels praised, Christ, the Lord.

The Son of God, descended from heaven. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He did this to give Himself for us and for our salvation. He came to redeem us from every lawless deed and to purify for Himself His own special people. And that's what He did. He redeemed you and me. **This** is the good news of great joy that is for all the people; it is the good news of great joy that He is **for you**.

Before God said, "Let there be light," it was in the mind of God to redeem the people He knew would walk headlong into the darkness of sin. And **now** the people walking in darkness have seen a great **light**.

But why would God create a people who would rebel, who want to be God for themselves and kill Him? Because He is love. God is love, and out of His eternal love He made an object of His divine affection- humankind. Then out of all the peoples of the earth, He chose Abraham and gave Him promises that through him all the peoples of the earth would be blessed. And when the time had fully come, He sent forth His Son- precisely according to His promise, for Joseph and Mary to go from Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David, Bethlehem, exactly where the promise was to be fulfilled. "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. *Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.* The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this" (Is 9:6-7).

II. And He **has** done it. Into the darkness of this world, but much more specifically, into the darkness of your life, He has come- to do for you the work of His salvation- that is, to redeem you. And tonight, you receive the Good News that He did. Christ the Lord has been born. The sign for the shepherds on that night was the swaddling cloths and the baby lying in a manger. The heavenly host sounds forth, “Glory to God in the highest!” because the King of heaven is the baby in the manger. The Creator comes into the world to save His people. As the message of the angels went into the ears of the shepherds, so it has gone into yours too. And we join in tonight and sing our Gloria in Excelsis Deo. All of time, every word and promise of God, all the Scriptures of the prophets, pointed to the **moment** when the eternal God would enter this earth as a child, and through Him there is peace between God the Father and you. He is the Redeemer, the child wrapped up in the swaddling cloths, who would be wrapped up in linen with spices on Good Friday, having paid the redemptive price by dying on the cross.

This is why the almighty Word descended from the royal throne- to go into the darkness of death, to die. What wonderful peace there is for you! Into the darkness of death went the child, and now His light shines forth. Just as the angels cried out on the night of His birth, so were the angels again there when He burst forth from the tomb to proclaim that He is risen! This is why there is such great joy! That is why we adore Him!

The redemptive price was paid, and you have peace forevermore. A Savior, Christ the Lord—that is who you have, now and forever.

“She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn” (v. 7). “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (v. 12). There is nothing more beautiful in all the world to hear tonight, and you hear it. Believe it. Amen.