

Pastor's Ramblings - December 2012

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:11 NIV

It was at least three weeks before Thanksgiving, we were walking the mall (exercise not shopping) on one of our nice rainy Saturdays in the PNW and there was Santa - all set up, pictures being taken and lists being given by anxious children. I am not sure if they thought the earlier they got it in the better or if mom and dad thought the earlier we get them in line the less time we have to spend in line! This got me to thinking, what do I want for Christmas?

Many lists have been made. They have been checked. Black Friday has come and gone. More sales are to come. More lists are made. More deals. And then, more things are bought. An interesting item on the news this week featured a Pre-K school who locked away all the fine toys they had and found card board boxes of all sizes and shapes, from small to the very large. They said not one child complained, they delighted in what they could do with the boxes. Imaginations ran wild, children could be heard giggling and fun was had by all. They asked, "Why not just buy the boxes?" Forget about what is inside - kids are more fascinated with the boxes - let their imaginations go. It would not do much for the economy but a lot for family finances.

It also brought to my mind that we have already been given what we need. The angels announced the Good News to the shepherds on the hillside outside of Bethlehem. It was the news they had longed for, hoped for, prayed for. It was news that would turn the world upside down. It was news that should have been delivered to kings and priests but came to shepherds on a hillside. It was news that many in the the world did not want to hear, power, privilege and prestige were no longer important. Hope comes in a baby. Love is found wrapped in a manger. Faith is challenged by the way God moves in history. God so loves the world

What do you want for Christmas? Is a Savior on your list? Israel was expecting the promise to be fulfilled for Israel. They were not thinking about the rest of the world. Surely, the gift would be given exclusively for them, they were the chosen. And yet, God saw beyond Israel. God gave to the whole world -- a gift, the hope that was needed. There was God's gift, wrapped in strips of cloth, sleeping in a manger. There was the young mom and (maybe) older dad wondering about this child of promise. There were shepherds, sleepy on the hillside hearing angels sing. And, Magi who saw a star and journeyed for months looking for the promised King.

The Christmas gift we need - has already been given. He is there waiting, standing outside the door of the hearts of men and women, waiting to be invited in. He grew, lived and loved the world he helped create. He died that we might live -- a promise fulfilled - a gift given. Have you opened the greatest gift given? The One who caused angels to sing to shepherds to you and me!

Sermons for December 2012

December 2, Communion Sunday

Numbers 6:1-8; Luke 1:5-24

Counting Greatness

Advent Candle: Hope

December 9

Genesis 18:1-15; Luke 1:26-38

Impossible Possibilities

Advent Candle: Peace

December 16

Isaiah 11:1-9; Luke 2:1-8

Time!

Advent Candle: Joy

December 23

Isaiah 52:7-12; Luke 2:9-20

Songs in the Night

Advent Candle: Love