

The Master's Message

The Newsletter of the Church of the Master

December, 2022

Virtual Adult Bible Study
Wednesday, 7:00 PM
Saturday, 12:00

2783 Lafayette Avenue
Bronx, N.Y. 10465
718-597-6298

Sunday Worship
Sunday 11:00 am

cotm47@verizon.net

Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden, Pastor

One Solitary Life

Sometimes this narration is cited as "author unknown". However, it is widely attributed to the Baptist minister, James Allan Francis and a 1926 sermon, preached just two years before his death. His first ministry assignment was at the age of twenty one, to service in New York City's Riverside Baptist Church.

This narration is often presented at Christmas concerts, frequently right before the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus.

Here is, **One Solitary Life**

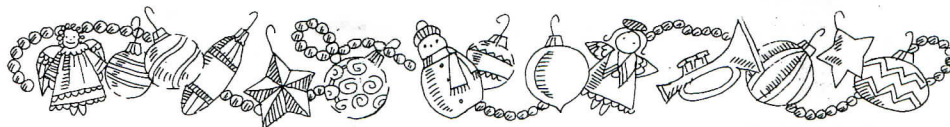
He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman.
He grew up in still another village, where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was 30.
Then, for three years he became an itinerant preacher.
He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house.
He didn't go to college.
He never visited a big city or even travelled 200 miles from the place where he was born.
He did none of those things one usually associates with greatness.
He had no credentials but himself.

He was only 33 when the tide of public opinion turned against him.
His friends ran away.
He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial.
He was nailed to a cross between two thieves.
While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing; the only property he had on earth.
When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave, through the pity of a friend.

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today he is considered by many to be the central figure of the human race, and the leader of mankind's progress.

All the armies that ever marched; All the navies that sailed;

All the parliaments that ever sat; All the kings that ever reigned put together, have not affected the life of man on earth, as that One.....Solitary.....Life.



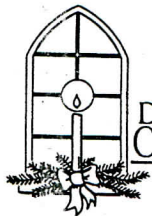
SPECIAL DATES*

- Second Sunday in Advent, December 4th
- Pearl Harbor Day, December 7th
- Third Sunday in Advent, December 11th
- Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 18th
- First day of winter, December 21st
- Christmas Eve, December 24th
- Christms Day, December 25th
- New Year's Eve, December 31st

News From the Pews



Continued healing for:
Allen Ford, Carole Mahon,
Loretta Byrd & Alice & Alex Rivera



We're *Decking-the-Halls*"
Come Decorate for
Christmas
at 10:00 AM
on Saturday,
December 3rd
Please join us!



Pop-Up Craft Fair

In Hahn Hall
Saturday, Decmber 10th from 10-6
Sunday, December 11th from 12-6



Everyone is invited to join our virtual "*Hour of Prayer Power*" every Friday at 7:00 PM.
The conference call-in number is 605-475-4860,
code: 371231#

Our virtual **Bible Study** meets
Wednesday at 7:00 PM and Saturday at 12:00.
Contact Ron Rivera (917-716-8273)
for information on joining

CHURCH CHUCKLES

The Sunday school teacher could tell it was getting close to lunchtime when Roger asked her to tell the class about the multiplication of the French fries and fish sandwiches.

CHURCH NOTES

Remember the children's ministry bake sale.
Our kids make great snacks.

Nuptial LOLs

When Outreach magazine asked pastors for their most embarrassing mistakes during wedding ceremonies, the responses took the cake. Hundreds of clergy 'fessed up about dropping rings, using the wrong names and even driving to the wrong venue. Have a laugh at these "I do" don'ts!

- I asked the groom if he promised to leave his wife and cleave to all others. Before I could correct it, he said, "I do."
- Due to a bulletin typo, the Bible reading from 1 John was listed as John 4:16-19. In those verses, Jesus tells the woman at the well, "... for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband."
- I accidentally read, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and money and be united to his wife."
- While praying, I meant to say, "Lord, please bless this marriage." The word *message* started to come out instead, and I tried to stop it. Unfortunately, the result was "Lord, please bless this mess."
- I asked the groom, "Do you take this wedded woman to be your wife?"



A primer on love

Is life not full of opportunities for learning love? Every man and woman every day has a thousand of them. The world is not a playground; it is a schoolroom. Life is not a holiday, but an education. And the one eternal lesson for us all is how better we can love.

—Henry Drummond

NAME THAT CHRISTMAS TUNE

1. Approach, everyone who is steadfast
2. Ecstasy toward the orb
3. Hush, the foretelling spirits harmonize
4. Hey, miniscule urban area of southwest Jerusalem
5. Quiescent nocturnal period
6. The autocratic troika originating near the ascent of Apollo
7. The primary carol
8. During the time ovine caretakers supervised their charges past midnight
9. Removed in a bovine feeding trough
10. The thing manifested itself at the onset of a transparent day.
11. What offspring abides us?
12. The slight percussionist lad
13. Heavenly hosts our ears have noticed above
14. Depart, proclaim it on highest points of earth

"All the Christmas presents in the world are worth nothing without the presence of Christ"

-David Jeremiah

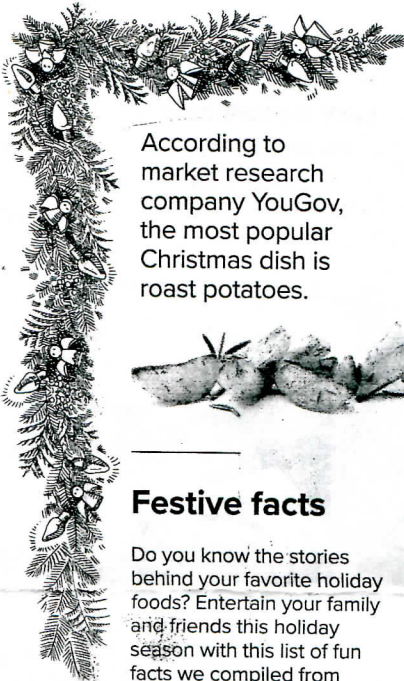
DON'T
FORGET
THE

"Reason
for the
Season"



- "God goes to those who have time to hear him — and so on this cloudless night he went to simple shepherds."

—Max Lucado



According to market research company YouGov, the most popular Christmas dish is roast potatoes.



Festive facts

Do you know the stories behind your favorite holiday foods? Entertain your family and friends this holiday season with this list of fun facts we compiled from Mentalfloss.com:

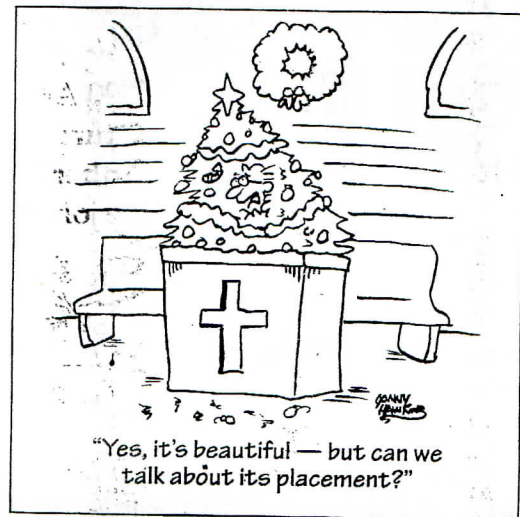
The first gingerbread recipe dates back to 2400 B.C.

Candy canes didn't always have stripes.

Eggnog is based on a medieval drink called posset.

Potato latkes gained popularity in the 1800s thanks to a mass planting of potatoes in Eastern Europe.

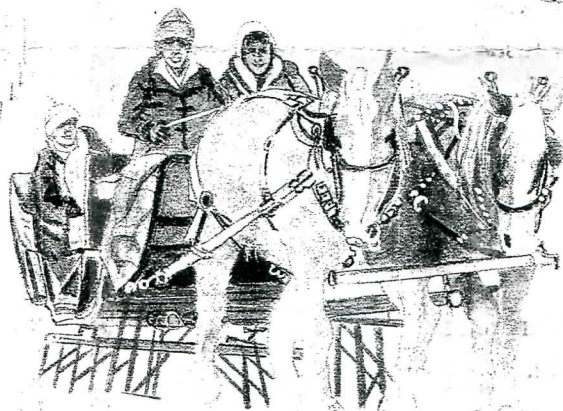
Campbell Soup Company makes \$20 million just on cans of cream of mushroom soup around Thanksgiving.



1. O Come, All Ye Faithful
2. Joy to the World!
3. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
4. O Little Twin of Bethlehem
5. Silent Night
6. We Three Kings of Orient Are
7. The First Noel
8. While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night
9. Away in a Manger
10. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
11. What Child is This?
12. Little Drummer Boy
13. Angels, We Have Heard on High
14. Go Tell It on the Mountain

*"Blessed are you who believed
that what was spoken to you by
the Lord would be fulfilled."*

Luke 1:45



- "I can't be a Christian on my own. I need a community. I need the church."

—Rachel Held Evans

- "When it comes to life, the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude."

—G.K. Chesterton

The company you keep

At a concert, a Christian musician talked about growing up in the South, saying his accent was a giveaway. Then he described his relationship with Jesus, noting that he spends lots of time in God's Word. By "hanging out with Jesus," he said, he has "picked up Jesus' accent." Just as people know he's from the South because of how his voice sounds, they know he follows Christ through his actions and words.

Proverbs 13:20 emphasizes that the company you keep can greatly influence you, for better or worse. Imagine the impact we can have on other people by hanging out with Jesus more!

Dear God, we invite you into our daily lives. Hang out in our hearts and minds so that when people see and hear us, they'll know whose we are. Amen.

—Julie Lee

This I Believe

You wonder how these things can be...
That God would send His Son for you and me

My friend, I believe that's true,
For Christ was born for me and you.

You wonder why He lived for us,
And question why in Him I trust.

The answer is clear, and you will see;
Christ died for our sins to set us free.

Just open your heart to Christ today,
And you will experience a peaceful way;
Look deep in your soul, and you will find

A loving Spirit, so humble and kind.

Then you will receive blessings from God above;
As you live a life of joy embraced in His love.

Sandy Hanna

*In danger I called on the
Lord; the Lord answered
me and set me free.*

Psalm 118:5



Christmas is ..



A TIME FOR GIVING

December Newsletter Article – Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!

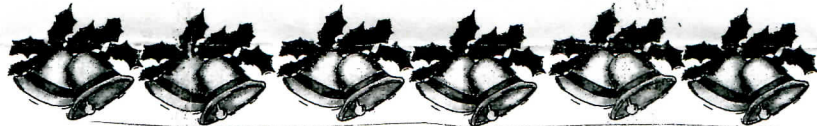
December brings the joy of the blessed Advent Season. Despite the cold chill of winter, our hearts are warmed as we reflect on and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Our Heavenly Father is the giver of every good and perfect gift. Some 2,000 years ago, God gave us the greatest gift humankind has ever known, on that Christmas morn, God sent us Salvation in the person of his only begotten Son, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit by Immaculate Conception through his earthly mother, the Virgin Mary. As the Apostle Paul wrote, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." (2 Cor. 9:15). May we not allow the grinch of the world to steal our joy this Advent Season. Let us instead focus on the beauty of the Season. Let us remember the lyrics of the gospel song "This joy that I have, the world didn't give it and the world can't take it away!" Let us not allow the commercialization of Christmas cause us to lose the hope and the joy of the Season. Let us remember that Jesus is the reason and the only reason for the Season! Most importantly as we praise God for the birth of our blessed Redeemer, Jesus Christ, let the true meaning of the Season sustain us! Let the wonderful sounds, sights and smells of Christmas lift our spirits. May all your Christmases be filled with Peace, Joy and the Hope as we join our voices to sing the ageless Christmas song—

"Joy to the World the Lord is Come, Let earth receive her king,
Let every heart prepare him room, And heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing."

Shalom to you and Merry Christmas to all!

Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden
Pastor
Church of the Master

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MUTTS

By PATRICK McDONNELL



GIVE THE ONES YOU LOVE

