

Central United Church Windsor

Dan Bryant

November 14, 2021

Carl Sagan the renowned astronomer stared into the cosmos and wrote about it with wonder and amazement as a scientist, he had the belief and understanding that science can't explain everything.

One of his philosophies about life was that people live their lives in one of two ways.

One is that there are no miracles or that you can live your life as it is full of miracles.

As we start to focus on the season of advent and the other part of Christmas that I am already hearing about getting the spirit of Christmas, which is how the Covid world we live in adjusts to seeing Santa. Lot's of things about supply chain problems that could create gift-giving challenges. Now I am not the reincarnation of Scrooge. I do like the joyous parts of Christmas with friends and family and I know that there is a different Spirit of Christmas.

New Flash God doesn't have supply chain problems.

Our God the creator is an abundant God. The love of God flows freely 24/7 365 for all unconditionally.

I would like us today to take a few moments to look at some of the miracles that surround us.

The first is the miracle of the world God created. This past weekend we fell back an hour of time. Think about God's clock, the sun and moon, night and day, the seasons. The earth spins around in 24 hours and circles the sun every 365 days. The Creator set it up at the beginning and it still happens every day year in and year out. How miraculous is that?

The other miracle at that time was that men and women then now are made in the image of God to be one with God in relationship with God. The miracle of you.

Now there is a realization that humans have not been very good stewards or caretaker of the miracle of the earth.

I believe if humanity lived the life that the miracle of Jesus who told his disciples what the most important we loved God with all our body mind and soul would we love we would take care of the world God created for us. And if we truly loved others, the world would be a better place. We would all do what we need to do for the climate, poverty in the world and more. now a musical interlude to put it in perspective Bette Middlers From A Distance,

*The world looks blue and green And the snow capped mountains white  
From a distance The ocean meets the stream And the eagle takes to flight  
From a distance There is harmony And it echoes through the land*

*It's the voice of hope It's the voice of peace  
It's the voice of every man From a distance  
We all have enough And no one is in need  
And there are no guns, No bombs, and no disease No hungry mouths to feed*

*From a distance We are instruments  
Marching in a common band Playing songs of hope  
Playing songs of peace They are the songs of every man  
God is watching us God is watching us*

*God is watching us From a distance  
From a distance You look like my friend  
Even though we are at war From a distance*

*I just cannot comprehend What all this fighting's for  
From a distance There is harmony*

*And it echoes through the land And it's the hope of hopes  
It's the love of loves It's the heart of every man*

*It's the hope of hopes It's the love of loves This is the song for every man  
God is watching us God is watching us  
God is watching us From a distance  
Oh, God is watching us God is watching  
God is watching us From a distance*

Two weeks ago, Pastor Charmain talked about communicating with God through prayer.

With the miracle of the birth of Jesus, God used different means of communication. One method that was very effective was not only around the birth of God's gift to humanity but in other times. We all have dreamed around Christmas even if is Dreaming Irving Berlin's 1928 White Christmas.

God started the world on a fresh course with Angels coming down and popping into dreams. Starting with Mary the mother of Jesus.

Then it was the angel an appeared to Joseph, as described in Matthew 1 20-21, The Lord appeared to him in a dream "Joseph son of David "the angel said do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife for the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and she will have a son and you are to name him Jesus for he will save people from their sins.

The Gift The Miracle.

C.S Lewis said this **“Once in our world a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world”**.

God kept the instant messaging through Angels directing the Wise Men to not go tell King Herod where Jesus was. King Herod did not want to worship him but kill the baby, Jesus.

A dream sent Joseph, Mary, and Jesus to go to Egypt to hide from King Herod.

The Angel came back to Joseph in a dream to send them back to Israel because the ones who were trying to kill Jesus had died. **We should all be Grateful that Mary Joseph and the wise men paid attention to their dreams.**

In Closing as we take the journey through Advent, may we keep in our minds and hearts as the song **“Where is the Line for Jesus?”** song says

Where's the line to see Jesus? Is He here at the store?

If Christmas time is His birthday, Why don't we see Him more?

People give us presents, but Jesus gave much more.

His life for me and for you. Amen