

December 2020



EUREKA BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER



Christmas Service

Sunday
December 20
10:00am

Merry Christmas

Friday
December 25



New Year's Eve

Thursday
December 31



A Note from Pastor Seth

As we think about Christmas it makes me wonder how the world thinks of this holiday. This is a great time of year to share the true meaning of Christmas with your unbelieving family, friends, and neighbors. Lately, I have been pondering the reality that everyone, everywhere must recognize the important place that Jesus holds in world history, whether one wants to or not. Any impartial survey of world history must conclude that Jesus is the most important human who ever lived. He lived on this earth for thirty plus years and changed it forever. Christianity has shaped the world in ways that no other movement has in the last two thousand years. I was a history minor in college, and I took several church history courses in seminary. I was struck by the fact that largely speaking, the study of western civilization is essentially a study of the history of the church. The last two thousand years has been shaped more by Jesus of Nazareth than anyone else. Let me give you a few examples of this. In the first century a movement that started out as a small Jewish sect (followers of Christ) outlasted the powerful Roman Empire that crumbled several centuries later. Secondly, the calendar that most people use in the world uses as its starting point the life of Christ. Each year before the life of Christ has after the year two letters, B.C. and this stands for "Before Christ." Every year after Christ's birth, are followed by the letters, AD, and these two letters mean Anno Domini. In Latin this means, "The Year of our Lord." These marks are in our vocabulary every day. Thirdly, it is important to note that the two most prominent worldwide holidays, Christmas and Easter, are all about Jesus. One commemorates the day that Jesus came to this earth and the other commemorates the

resurrection of Christ. So no secular person can escape the reality that Jesus is the most influential person in the history of the world. Not just in the Middle East and western world, but everywhere. For example, in China there is over one hundred million Christians today. Worldwide, there are over 2 billion people who identify in some sense with Christianity. So the question that any honest person needs to ask is why is this man so influential? Why is his influence bigger than anyone else's? But here is the most important question. Do you realize that Jesus is the only person in world history that you cannot be indifferent toward? Let me explain why this is in the last paragraph, and specifically how understanding the true meaning of Christmas has eternal implications. As we enter December, we enter a very special month. It is the time of year when Christians all over the world celebrate the incarnation. The incarnation is a fancy word to say that God became a man in the person of Jesus Christ. It is hard to wrap our minds around this, and frankly we never will fully be able to. The same one who created the trillions of galaxies; the same one who created the mountains and the sea; the same one who created all of these varieties of animals; the same one who has governed all of history; and the same one who created you and me, became a man. God never had a beginning, the Father, Son, and Spirit existed in joy in eternity past (John 17:5). The second person of that Trinity, the Son, is the one who took on flesh (John 1:14). When Jesus came to this earth, he came on a rescue mission to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15). After living a perfect life (1 Peter 2:22), he died on the cross to pay the penalty for sins and rose from the dead (1 Peter 3:18; 1

Eureka Baptist Church
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Sunday Morning Service: 10:00am
*Kid's Church during Service
Sunday School: 9:00am

Corinthians 15:20), and anyone who believes in him will be freed from the punishment one deserves and will receive eternal life (John 3:16). To have eternal life means that you will live with the One you were created for (Colossians 1:15) and live in fullness of joy with him forever (Psalm 16:11). History shows that Jesus is the most influential person who ever lived and the Bible tells us why. He is the God-man, the Savior of the world, and the forever king (Revelation 19:16; 22:1). It is important that everyone on earth understands this most important truth.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Seth

John 3:16
For God so loved the world,
that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him
should not perish, but have
everlasting life.



Mission Missions: reach

Miron Family: Ireland

Since our last newsletter, the kids have started school. We are so so thankful that they have been able to meet in person. Thank you so much for praying for that.

There is absolutely no better way for the kids to get acclimated to the culture than by learning with their peers at school. Norah even got placed in the same class with her friend from next door, who she would spend every minute of every day hopping over the rock wall and playing with if we let her. We were worried about how hard of an adjustment school would be for them, but they have handled it brilliantly and have all been doing so well. Lucy has even started to develop an accent.

The other benefit of the kids being in school is being able to meet and connect with other parents. There is no orderly line of cars dropping and picking up kids here. The Irish would prefer to chaotically fill surrounding parking lots with their cars and have everyone walk to drop off their kids. This is greatly to our benefit! Between waiting in line with other parents, and playing with Lucy at the playground while we wait to collect the older kids from school, we have been able to meet and start relationships with lots of people in town.

Currently only essential businesses are open, we're limited to 5km radius from our house, and no visitors are allowed in our house or even in our yard. But they have thankfully prioritized schools staying open, so that's really our only chance to meet and get to know people right now. I'll be honest, making friends with the Irish during Covid feels like I'm trying to court someone who's been forbidden from relationships. The Irish are not their normal Irish selves, and they are all trying to figure out how to live this current life as well. Like one of the other mothers said to Sarah last week, "I just feel so bad! We would have already had you guys over for tea or dinner if things were normal."

But this has also opened some doors, because for the moment we are all in the same boat together. We are bonded together through the same suffering, and that goes along way here. You can tell most people don't believe us when we tell them we are here to live indefinitely, because they always seem to ask us at least 3 times, "So... how long are you staying here again?" But now we find ourselves asking other parents, "Man, another 6 weeks of lockdown, how are you holding up? Whats the hardest part for you guys?" And now we actually get deeper answers and conversation beyond the usual "Can you believe the weather we've had this week?" We are trusting God will use all of that, as normality starts to return.

"Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him" (Psalm 37:3-7)



Praises

- Praise God that the kids have been able to go to school physically, and that they have adjusted and handled it incredibly well.
- We have an answer to Norah's health ailments, and that we've already seen improvements.
- That God has used the bleak and difficult season of covid to speak to people and stir in their hearts and move them towards repentance and a relationship with him.
- That we have a book study started on the gospel.
- That we've been able to meet and begin relationships with several people in town, despite how restrictive conditions are.

Prayer Requests

- Please continue to pray for the building of relationships, especially with people here in Oranmore. We are so thankful for your prayers and how God has answered them so far!
- Please pray for our study on the gospel with Liam and Marco. Just that this is happening has been a huge answer to prayer. Thank you for praying that God's Spirit would be at work in peoples hearts, now pray with us that He would continue to be at work in our study.
- Please pray for further conversations and interests in the church plant. We really have no clue on the timing of a plant, especially with COVID, but as we head in that direction, waiting on the Lord to lead, we are asking members at GCBC to consider if God would have them join us.
- Please pray for our life group. We currently aren't allowed to have anyone in our homes or gardens, and especially as we look to invite others to join our group, we aren't very sure practically how to make it happen.



The word Advent means arrival, and it refers to the arrival of Jesus Christ into the world. The “Advent season” usually starts four weeks before Christmas and concludes with the celebration of Christ’s birth. Some churches emphasize the Advent season more than others, but all Christians look forward to celebrating Christ’s birth during this season of the year.

Why was Jesus’ birth so important? The reason is because slightly over 2,000 years ago, God stooped down from heaven and became a human being: Jesus Christ. As the Bible says, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14).

Think of it: God became a man! He did it because He loves us—and that’s what we should celebrate as Christmas approaches. Take time between now and Christmas to reflect on this great truth.

Week 1:

Read Isaiah 9:6—In this Scripture we find the message and meaning of Christmas. Isaiah the prophet gave five awe-inspiring names of our Lord that encourage us, thrill us and fill us with hope at this Christmas season.

1. Wonderful. When He did His many miracles, the Scripture says, “The people wondered.” (Luke 11:14)
2. Counselor. The officers said, “No one ever spoke like this man!” (John 7:46)
3. Mighty God. He is the God-Man. He said that He and the Father are one. (John 10:30)
4. Everlasting Father. It was by Him, the living Word, that all things were created. He is the designer of the whole universe. (John 1:3; Hebrews 11:3)
5. Prince of Peace. There will never be lasting peace on earth until He comes again to reign in righteousness. But He is also the Prince of Peace in other ways. None can have peace with God apart from Him and the peace that He made through the blood of His cross. (Colossians 1:20)

The full meaning of these words from Isaiah should give us enough strength, hope, and joy to face any crisis, endure any sorrow and meet any temptation. How has Jesus shown you recently that He is “Wonderful, Counselor . . . the Prince of Peace”?

As you prepare for Christmas, are you seeking to follow God’s call in your life?

Week 2:

Read Matthew 1:19-21—We’re given just a little glimpse of Mary and Joseph before Jesus was born. They lived in the hill country of Galilee. Joseph was a religious man. Mary gives every evidence of having a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures, even though she was a teenager. The Bible teaches that God was so pleased with her that He chose her to be the mother of Jesus. Mary and Joseph weren’t married, and yet Mary became pregnant.

I’ve often put myself in Joseph’s place—imagined his thoughts, his aspirations about the girl to whom he was engaged. But Joseph decided to break the engagement privately.

While he was thinking about these things, God’s angel appeared to him in a dream to give Joseph an explanation of the situation. All Joseph’s suspicions were put away. He accepted what God had said through the angel, and he was immediately married to Mary.

Both Joseph and Mary followed the call and plan of God, and through their obedience the way was prepared for Christ to come and bless us.

Are you seeking to follow God’s call on your life? Are you actively responding to Him?



Monthly Events



Women’s Bible Study
Saturday, December 5
9:00am



Men’s Breakfast
Saturday, December 12
8:00am



Do you know people who need to hear about God’s love and forgiveness?

Week 3:

Read Luke 2:8-10—On that first Christmas night, the angels appeared to shepherds on a hill near Bethlehem. Alfred Edersheim, the great 19th-century Jewish-Christian scholar, wrote in his book *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah* that the shepherds and the sheep to whom the angels appeared near Bethlehem were no ordinary shepherds and sheep.

The sheep were those bound for the temple sacrifices. The shepherds were outcasts because of their necessary isolation from religious ordinances. And their manner of life rendered legal observances unlikely, if not absolutely impossible.

How wonderful that in God’s wisdom and love the angels should appear to them—the doomed and the outcast—that night.

Today we can declare to the world that the Good Shepherd cares for all people and wants to give them peace. Christ came on that first Christmas for one great purpose—to die on the cross for our sins. Now God offers forgiveness, inner peace and eternal life to all who will repent and believe in His Son. This is the Christmas message!

Do you know people who need to hear about God’s love and forgiveness? Will you share the true Christmas message with them this year?

Week 4:

For this week heading into Christmas, read Luke 2:11, 13-14.

The greatest sermon ever preached was delivered by angels on this historic night. It has always been interesting to me that this message was delivered at night. It wasn’t night because the sun had gone down. It was night because the world was surrounded in spiritual and moral gloom.

People were driven by greed, intolerance and lust for power. Religion had become a device for the rich in the exploitation of the poor. Men robbed and swindled and profited under the cloak of religion; they even fought wars in the name of religion. In every arena of life, it was night when Jesus came.

Things haven’t changed. Today, there seems to be a moral night that has settled over our world—sexual immorality, pleasure-mad people, lusting for money and power—the same as it was in the days when Jesus came 2,000 years ago.

It is in the darkest hour that Christ often comes. He brings the joy, the thrill, the peace and the glory such as you have never known—when you and your loved ones give your lives to Him.

How has Jesus shown Himself to you in your darkest hour? Reflect on this for Christmas.

Billy Graham’s Advent Devotion
<https://billygraham.org/>

Merry CHRISTMAS



Weekly Events



Sunday School
Sunday Mornings
9:00am



Morning Service
Sunday Mornings
10:00am



Kids Church
Sunday mornings during
Morning Service

2020 Board Members

Deacons

Shaun Anderson
Gordon Trombley

Elder

Mark Brooks

Trustees

Randy Clark
Shaun Anderson

Deaconess

Barbara Trombley
Amber Lindo
Hansi Stridde
Abby Swanson

Secretary

Amber Lindo

Treasurers

Hansi Stridde
Abby Swanson

Church Announcements

- If you would like to do a special during a morning service in December. Please talk with Pastor Seth.
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study is on Wednesday evenings in the Matson building at 6:30pm.
- Sunday Sermons will continue to be shown on facebook live until further notice.
- 2021 Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 17 after morning service.
- Nominating Committee – please prepare the 2021 Nominating Ballot for the Annual Meeting.
- If anyone has any 2020 reimbursements, please get them to Treasurer Hansi Stridde by December 13th.
- HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Pastor Seth Brickley 12/3, Jeff Lindo 12/7, Shaila Johnson 12/11, Brianna Brickley 12/14, Shaun Anderson 12/20, Patsy Anderson 12/30



The Women’s Friday Morning Bible Study group was blessed to have Kathy Schwanke present at our November 13th meeting. Kathy is the author of the Divine Conversations Bible Study we have been using this fall.

Her love for God and His people were evident as she led us through the lesson, and her time with us was special indeed.



Each of us is an Innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus
-Neal A Maxwell



Our family has been stuck at home for the past few weeks due to quarantine. I’m thankful for the online options that we have available so we are still able to watch Sunday sermons. However, this stay at home has given me new appreciation for the teachers that teach Kid’s Church. Lillie wanted to include Jacob, so she’s been teaching him a Bible story every week. I listen in and am amazed at what these kids are learning and taking with them. Thank you so much to those that prepare lessons and give their time each week. It is much appreciated!
– Amber Lindo

Verse of the Month: Matthew 9:6
But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” —he then said to the paralytic— “Rise, pick up your bed and go home.”



HARVEST FESTIVAL



Eureka Baptist Church had their Harvest Festival on Sunday, November 8th during the morning service. Thank you to everyone that participated and also to the Kitchen Crew for setting up the treats in the Matson Building.



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2393 210th Avenue
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