

Vox

Voice of Emmanuel Baptist Church

Volume 13

December 2020

Covid Christmas

John Hubbard

2020 has been a very different year, to say the least. With a world-wide pandemic, contested elections, and rising lawlessness in the streets, it is easy to see the future, at best, as bleak! Being able to spend the holidays with your family is even in question now. In some states, churches are being told that they are not allowed to meet for worship. But, in the midst of all this, God is still on His throne—He is still sovereign over all the affairs of mankind.

Other than technology, the world was quite the same some two thousand years ago. People being ruled by a government that they did not like, crime and lawlessness a constant problem. Rebellion against authority and the ever-present danger of being squashed by those in positions of authority. It is into this environment that a miracle happened. An angel appeared to a man named Joseph, who was betrothed to a young virgin named Mary. The angel prophesied to Joseph, saying: *"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."* ...

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us) (Matthew 1:21,23 ESV).

This prophesy was fulfilled and announced, once again by an angel, to some shepherds: *And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord"* (Luke 2:10-11). God did not choose to rescue His people using a worldly government or kingdom. He sent His only begotten Son to seek and save the lost. He did not send Jesus to this earth to rescue His people from the oppressive governments of this world, but rather to rescue them from their sins!

Though the virgin birth is in itself a wonderful miracle, the true miracle of Christmas is this: *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth* (John 1:14). Jesus, the Word, became a man, and as a man He perfectly obeyed His heavenly Father's will. He then, in perfect obedience, died under the full

(Continued on page 2)

The **Word**
became flesh and made
His dwelling among us.
We have seen
His glory, the
glory of the One and Only,
who came from the **Father**,
full of grace and truth.
— John 1:14

GOD
WITH
US





EBC will fill two food baskets
for Christmas gifts this December.
Before your purchase, make sure to sign up
so there will not be too many of one item.
If you know a deserving family,
please tell Bobbie Browning or Jean York.
The deadline is Sunday, December 20.
Thank You & Merry Christmas

Covid-Christmas

(Continued from page 1)

wrath of God, paying the price that we sinners owe, thus redeeming His people and once again bringing them into a familial relationship with the Father: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him"* (John 3:16-17).

And so, the Good News of Christmas is not just the birth of Jesus, but that He truly, once and for all, accomplished the mission for which he was sent. After His resurrection, and before His ascension into heaven, Jesus commanded His followers: *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have*

commanded you." ... And promises them, ... *"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age"* (Matthew 28:19-20).

Once again, we receive great news in the form of a promise, from heavenly messengers: *"...This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same*

way as you saw him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11b). Christ has come; He has won the victory, and He will come again!

Believers, take heart! Our King has won and He will return for us and we will reign with Him in the new heaven and the new earth for all eternity! *He will wipe away*

every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away (Revelation 21:4). **Merry Christmas!**

*Behold, I am with you always
even to the end of the world
Matthew 28:20*

EBC

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Submit information to Chlo Dukes by the fifteenth of the month preceding publication by email, in person, or at the church office. The editor reserves the right to edit for content or space. *Soli Deo Gloria!*




LORD'S DAY

BIBLE STUDY 9:30 AM
MORNING WORSHIP 10:40 AM

AFTERNOON WORSHIP
SECOND SUNDAY 1:30 PM

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY
FOURTH SUNDAY 4:30 PM

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Joy to the world!		1	2	3	4	5
6 Lord's Supper	7	8	9	10	11	
13 Afternoon Service	14	15 		17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	Merry Christmas	26
27 Evening Small Group Bible Study	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

06 Ruth Pate
20 Al Groover
25 Katie Brooks



WEDNESDAY

IN PERSON PRAYER MEETING
11:30 AM - EBC SANCTUARY

THURSDAY & SATURDAY
6:00 PM VESPERS - FACEBOOK

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
1 Timothy 1:15

GOOD ^{of} TIDINGS
COMFORT
& JOY



God rest ye merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay.
Remember Christ our Savior
was born on Christmas Day;
To save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.

God *make* you *mighty*, gentlemen.
Christ was born to save!

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