

Service Times:
8:15, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

"Herein is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; so shall you be My disciples." John 15:8



December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>TBC will help stock the food bank at CTLC the 1st Sunday of each month. Just bring your non-perishable food items in a plastic bag and leave them behind your car—they will be collected between services!</p>				1	2 *WPM	3
4	5	6	7 Out to Lunch 12-1:30 p.m. 	8 Last day of Bible Studies	9 *WPM NO Thirty-One 13	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 *WPM	17
18 No 8:15am Service	19	20	21	22	23 *WPM	24 **Christmas Eve Services 5 & 6:30pm 
25 11am Service only <i>No adult, nursery preK or elementary SS classes</i>	26 Office Closed	27	28	29	30 *WPM	31

***Women's Prayer Ministry, 9:30am, Sanctuary **Childcare for 5pm only (ages 4 & under)**

"For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us..." Isaiah 9:6 (NAS)

Blessings from Beth...

Suffer the little children to come unto me...for of such is the kingdom of heaven!

I've heard messages preached about this verse. I've heard devotionals that 'tag' this verse at the close to drive home a point. The emphasis is usually referencing the 'simplicity' of the gospel message or that you must come to Christ with the faith of a little child. I agree with both of those! I also know that the 'kingdom of heaven' can reference the immediate time on earth and also a future time in heaven.

What if this verse has another message, too? What if the message is literal in its interpretation and not just spiritual?

I began to ponder this a few years ago as I was reading an article of how many infant deaths occur in the U.S. alone. I wept—I became angry—I judged...yes, judged—and then I was drawn to prayer. The scripture that kept speaking to my heart was this verse, 'for of such is the kingdom of heaven'. 'Of course it is!' I said out loud to my kitchen walls. Those who never reach the age of accountability, upon their death, return to the Father! Heaven is full of children! Perhaps it is the singing of the angels that make them smile or the stories of the saints that keep them spellbound for years. (my thoughts) Children are very much a part of our heavenly home!

When God wrote the story of salvation He could have chosen a myriad of ways to redeem this fallen world but He chose a baby! He chose 'the least of these'. Jesus, very much God...very much man, came in the most precious and innocent way! He grew and learned the trade of his earthly father while fulfilling the work and will of the Heavenly Father. As a young man, Jesus became the sin of this world so that, through His death, the curse of sin would be lifted. The bridge to a personal relationship with God was completed when Jesus rose from that tomb! THIS is the story of Christmas!

So as you gather with family this year, seek out the youngest, a child, a baby...hug them, hold them close and remember...'for of such is the kingdom of heaven'! (If you hold them long enough, you might just hear angels singing or whispers from the Father!)

Celebrating Him!

Beth

Melodious Moments...

As technology has evolved, you will be receiving Christmas... ahem... "Greeting" cards in many forms this year. The traditional card delivered to your home or office mailbox, e-greetings to your email inbox and texts to your cell phones. There are probably even 3-D cards available if you have the app for viewing.

But with all the improvements, nothing comes close to rivaling the first Christmas greeting...not in the delivery nor the message.

Musical cards are great, but this one had a live message:

"And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.'" (Luke 2:13-14)

Stars may tweet on Twitter, but God used a star:

"and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over *the place* where the Child was." (Matt. 2:9)

From the moment the Savior arrived, God wanted him to be found by honest seekers. The same remains true today.

"But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find *Him* if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul." (Deut. 4:29)

As the holiday pace picks up, slow down and seek the Savior. And as you receive each card, pray for the sender. It may be praying that they will find the Savior for the first time, or that they will just slow down to enjoy time with Him.

The account in Luke 2 says the shepherds "came in a hurry.....and went back glorifying and praising God." The change in them had to be apparent to all who encountered them. Let's make that our story this year. Let's hurry to spend time with the Savior so we can return to our daily lives glorifying and praising God.

Merry Christmas,

Melody

**You may find our HeartPrints monthly newsletters,
as well as our older archived ones, on our website**

31 Days of Prayer...

1. TBC Missionaries and their families
2. Those in our church who formally counsel others
3. Widows/Widowers in our Body
4. Stephen Cheung, Associate Pastor and his wife, Julia
5. Elders' Wives
6. Cindy Young & Debbie Rodriguez, Out To Lunch Coordinators
7. Jeff & Amber Washburn, Alpha Coordinators
8. Elders and their families
9. Beth Mackey, WM Pastor & husband, Don
10. David Richardson, Small Groups & Men's Pastor and his family
11. Tim Chaplin, Celebrate Recovery Ministry, and his wife, Kellie
12. Shannon Soard, Single & College Pastor and his family
13. Wendy Wolfe & Lucinda Berry, NewSong Widows' Study
14. Sunday Morning Ushers & Greeters
15. Women's Bible Studies & Leaders
16. Michelle Cenicerros, Thirty-One-13 Ministry Coordinator
17. Administrative Staff & their families
18. Danny Cunningham, Exec. Pastor and his wife, Sandy
19. Gary DeSalvo, Sr. Pastor & his wife, Bev
20. Tim Cartwright, Jr. High Pastor and his family
21. Casey Burke, Children's Ministry Pastor and his family
22. Dave Tate, High School Youth Pastor and his family
23. Melody Euler, Asst. to WM Pastor & family
24. Deacons' Wives
25. Deployed Troops/Families
26. Mercy Team's Captains & Meal Providers
27. Chase Bowers, Missions Pastor and his family
28. Julie Martin, Nursery Director
29. Bobby Arnold, Worship Pastor and his family
30. DeYette Pauer, NewSong Outreach Ministry
31. Women's Ministry Bible Studies Leaders