

## Really Good News Christmas Eve Service 2019

**Thesis:** I have some really good news today.

**Text:** Isaiah 52:7-10; Luke 2:8-14; John 1:9-14

### 1. It is good news that the Lord reigns.

- a. *How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" (Isaiah 52:7 NIV).*
- b. **Those who bring good news:**
  - i. **Proclaim peace:** shalom, wholeness, well-being, safety, enough; it is the word that paints the picture of the kingdom of God in the OT.
  - ii. **Bring good tidings:** a report of "all is well," especially from the battle front.
  - iii. **Proclaim salvation:** God saves, rescues, and delivers us.
  - iv. **Say to the people of God, "Your God reigns":** it is good news that our God reigns because he is just, righteous, loving, faithful, and true.
    1. We are not left to ourselves, to this broken world, or to the devil and his whims.
    2. Our God rules to redeem, restore, and renew the whole world.
- c. It is good news that the Lord reigns.

### 2. It is good news that our Savior has been born for us, and he is Christ the Lord.

- a. *And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests" (Luke 2:8-14 NIV).*
- b. We need a Savior, Messiah, and Lord.
- c. The Lord Jesus Christ. This title for our Lord is the good news in its shortest form.

- i. **Lord:** Jesus is God and ruler of all of creation. He rules and reigns.
    - ii. **Jesus:** his name means “salvation,” “savior.”
    - iii. **Christ:** Jesus is the anointed, appointed one of God; he is the one who comes to fulfill the prophecies in the OT of Israel’s Messiah.
  - d. It is good news that our Savior has been born for us, and he is Christ the Lord.
- 3. **It is good news that Jesus came to reveal God the Father and Creator to us.**
  - a. **The Word became flesh and moved into the neighborhood.**
    - i. *The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish (John 1:14 MSG).*
  - b. **Jesus comes full of grace and truth** (John 1:14 NIV).
    - i. Whatever God asks us to do, he gives us the grace to do it.
    - ii. If you have heard only truth and not grace, you have heard only half of the story.
      - 1. God is not mad at you today.
      - 2. God has not given up on you today.
      - 3. God has come to you personally through his Son, Jesus, to show you how much he loves you and to bring you back into right relationship with God.
  - c. **To know what God is like, we look at Jesus.**
    - i. Jesus came to reveal God to us.
    - ii. Jesus said, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9).
  - d. **Jesus came to show us how men and women were to live--** the Word became flesh.
    - i. Jesus lived in deep intimacy and full partnership with God.
    - ii. Jesus lived in total dependence on and surrender to God.
    - iii. Jesus lived by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.
  - e. It is good news that Jesus came to reveal God the Father and Creator to us.
- 4. **It is good news that God offers you a precious gift this holiday season.**
  - a. *He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God (John 1:10-13 NIV).*
  - b. God the Father offers you his greatest gift: his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - i. This gift is for you and is offered to you freely.

- ii. For this gift to be ours, you and I have to receive this gift, to believe in Jesus.
- iii. When we receive the gift which God offers in Jesus and believe in Jesus, we become a part of God's family; we are born again into the family of God.
- c. It is good news that God offers you a precious gift this holiday season.

## Invitation

1. **God has made himself known.** He has revealed himself to us most clearly in Jesus, the Son of God.
  - a. If you want to know who God is, then look at Jesus.
  - b. If you want to know how you were meant to live, then look at Jesus and follow him.
  - c. If you want meaning and purpose for life, then join Jesus on his mission in your spheres of influence.
2. **God wants you to experience an ongoing relationship with Jesus as your Savior, Christ, and Lord.**
  - a. We all need a savior, a deliverer, a redeemer.
  - b. We all need the Christ, the one appointed and anointed to do something about our condition and the condition of this world.
  - c. We all need the Lord, a king, to rule and reign justly, rightly, and wisely.
  - d. **You and I can have an ongoing relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.**
    - i. If you are far away from God, come home today through Jesus.
    - ii. If you have neglected your relationship with God, come near through Jesus.
    - iii. If you don't know Jesus personally, say "yes" to the Lord today, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and receive him as your Lord and Savior.
3. **I know that Christmas is hard for many people, especially those who have suffered loss.**
  - a. But God wants you to know that he is near to the brokenhearted.
  - b. And God wants you to be a part of a family that can help, love, and support you, through the good times and the hard times.

## Let's pray:

Lord, thank you coming to us with good news. Thank you for coming as our Savior, Lord, and Christ. Thank you for making a way for us to have an eternal relationship with the Living God.

I pray for those who don't know you. Right now, I invite you to receive the gift of life

through Jesus and to become a part of God's family. **Pray with me:** *Dear God, thank you for loving me and pursuing me in Jesus. Thank you for showing me my need of you. I ask you to forgive me for living my life apart from you. I ask you to come into my life, Lord Jesus, by your Spirit, and to take over as Lord. Save me. Rule in and through me. And with the help of your Holy Spirit, I will follow you all the days of my life. I receive your gift of eternal life today. In the name of Jesus, I pray, amen.*

And, I pray for those who are hurting today, especially those suffering loss. Come near to them, Spirit of Christ. Bring your comfort and grace. Help them to feel your love and nearness, in the name of Jesus.

### **Candlelight Service**

We want to glorify and praise God for Jesus, the light of the world, our Savior, King, and Christ. We want to light the candles in honor of the Lord and to sing in worship to our God.