



HE IS
Christ THE
Lord
LUKE 2:11

Christmas, 2017

While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to have the baby, and she gave birth to her first son. Because there were no rooms left in the inn, she wrapped the baby with pieces of cloth and laid him in a feeding trough. (Luke 2:6-7)

Dear Anaheim Church Family,

To welcome Advent, I gave an Advent calendar and Nativity set to my granddaughters immediately following Thanksgiving. As I shared the Christmas story with them, we placed each significant figure at the manger. The innkeeper was not a part of this set. I haven't sung any carols or seen paintings of the innkeeper. Have you? He could have had a memorable, inspiring role in the Bethlehem story or maybe even a figure in the Nativity story. But he missed the opportunity.

As Joseph and Mary returned home for the census, the roads to Bethlehem were bumper to bumper. Bethlehem was bustling and the innkeeper filled every room, every cot, and every futon until "there were no rooms left in the inn." His place was crowded.

Couldn't the innkeeper make room somewhere as Mary was with child and close to giving birth? Wouldn't you?

And why couldn't he just bundle up and sleep in the stable himself? He missed the opportunity to welcome Jesus.

Many still do. So during this Advent and Christmas Season, we open the doors of our hearts to the Bethlehem miracle of God entering into our lives. He knocks on the door of your heart through Scriptures, a compassionate friend, an Advent sermon, a Christmas carol, or a sunrise. Don't miss these opportunities to welcome Him in.

As a church family, we welcome and desire more of Him. Because of the Bethlehem miracle, we step out in faith to create a worshipful atmosphere. More of God's Spirit will be received through the next generation's gifts of music, dance, creative arts, and preaching. By remodeling the chapel stage, modernizing the furnishings, and upgrading the audio visual. Recently, the congregation approved the \$1.8 million chapel remodel. Miraculously and sacrificially, \$1.4 million has been raised. We rest on another miracle for the remaining \$400,000 as we project completion in one year.

Again, your Christmas offering is dedicated to the chapel remodel. Thank you so much for supporting and investing in the next generation's vision / dream to welcome in more of God's presence.

During this Advent and Christmas Season, may the Bethlehem miracle open your heart and come to you in unexpected surprises. **Join us on December 24 at 10:00 a.m. for our Christmas Eve morning service** to receive His special touch and presence. Seize the opportunity to let Him into your "inn". Be a part of the Nativity.

Make your heart His home,
Pastor Nancy

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