



A NOTE FROM THE PASTORS' OFFICE

Crisis of Christmas: Far as the Curse is Found

Pastor Joel Smit

As you read this article hopefully you are well into the Christmas Season with decorations, presents, and songs. This truly is a wonderful time of year. One that is filled with spiritual meaning and significance as we think about our Savior's birth. This year we especially need a time of reflection and much joy.

What makes Christmas especially beautiful is all the wonderful songs that are scripturally rich and beautiful. One of the most familiar is Joy to the World, and this year I have the third stanza in my mind:

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found

Isaac Watts, who wrote *Joy to the World*, had a right understanding of what Christ's coming to earth would accomplish - removing the curse and allowing the blessings of God to come. Because of the sin of our first parents Adam and Eve all of creation has been affected and put under a curse. "For the creation was subjected to futility...and has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth" (Rom.8:21,22). Only Christ, chosen by God, could come and reverse the effects of that covenantal curse. That is exactly what He has done in his righteous life, sacrificial death, resurrection from the dead, and ascension into heaven. He became the curse for us so that we could receive all the blessings of God (2 Cor. 5:21).

If you remember in CS Lewis' *The Lion, Witch, and the Wardrobe*, the White Witch casts her spell on Narnia declaring that it will always be winter and never Christmas. But as Aslan comes and breaks the spell, the result is the snow and ice begins to melt and patches of green grass, green tree-branches, and flowers begin to appear. What a beautiful metaphor of life being brought to earth through the arrival and presence of Christ. All of creation is blessed by the arrival of its Creator.

This year our Advent Sermon Series is called *The Crisis of Christmas: Far as the Curse is Found*. The title comes out of Watt's Christmas classic that Jesus came not into a perfect world, but a world in crisis, full of sin and troubles. Yet Christ's coming brings blessings as far as the curse is found. Hope you will join us for every message and that it will bring blessing in the midst of this "crisis" year.

As you contemplate the advent of our Savior, may you think often of ALL that the Lord has given you through Jesus Christ. All because He has reversed the curse and has come to make His blessings flow. May the blessings of Christ flow this Christmas season - and always!
God bless you and yours! Merry Christmas!

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Lord's Day Service

Smyrna Pres continues to offer in person and virtual worship on the Lord's day at 11:00a.m. Please remember there are measures in place to limit person-to-person contact. You can find more in-depth information on our web-site. If you plan to worship by watching the live-stream or through the Listen Line (712-432-3410, church code 04410). You can also find the service on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Sermon Audio. Links to all of them can be found on our website's Live-stream Page <https://www.smyrnapres.org/live-stream>.

Wednesday Night In Person & Online Devotion & Prayer



Congregational Meeting

We will have a congregational meeting immediately following morning worship on Sunday, December 13th for the purpose of electing officers. Elder nominees are Jordan Lee, Jared Kee and Robert MacGregor. Deacon nominees are James Norvell, Brandon Soileau, and Grant Williams.

Oasis Ministry

Share your joy in Christ with our church family during the month of December by becoming an Operation Christmas Cheer Volunteer. By praying for one another & sending cards of encouragement, you can help make someone's heart merrier during this season. For more information e-mail the Oasis Ministry at oasis@smyrnapres.org.

Smyrna Pres is continuing it's Wednesday Night Devotion & Prayer Time on-line & in person. Pastor Joel is hosting weekly meetings at the church and Zoom calls in an effort to connect the church body while we are apart. Join us in the choir room or at home online **Wednesday nights from 6:45 pm - 7:30 pm**. All meeting details and reminders for this gathering are sent by email. If you would like to be added to the list, please email info@smyrnapres.org. We'd love to have you join!

**Special Guest December 9th, Rev. Andy Young, church planter in Oxford, England.

CHURCH NEWS

Christmas Eve Services

On Christmas Eve we will have two services. The first at 3:15pm and masks are required. The second a candlelight service at 5:00pm.

Christmas Poinsettia Sale

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please do so by 12/11/20. They will be \$10 each, and you can pay by cash or check in the offering plate or online at smyrnapres.org/giving. (Please note "Christmas Poinsettia" with your payment and list the name(s) of the people you would like to recognize). The flowers will be in place through the season for all to enjoy.



SPC KING'S KIDS

Christmas Pajama Party

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

DINNER BEGINNING AT 5:45

Food, Fellowship, & Fun

Be sure to wear your favorite Christmas Pajamas.

RSVP by Monday, November 30th to info@smyrnapres.org



Hat & Glove Tree

We are collecting new hats, gloves, scarves and socks to help minister to our Smyrna neighbors who do not have these items during the coldest months. There will be a tree in the Narthex until January 3rd. Please place new hats, gloves, scarves and socks for men, women and children on or around the tree. The items will then be taken to Smyrna MUST to assist others. Questions? Please contact Mark or Pat Jackson.

A Note From the Millers

"It has been such a comfort knowing my SPC church family has been lifting me and my family in prayer over the past nine months, due to health issues. Your prayers, phone calls, cards, visits & food were so welcomed. Through it all we have felt many of God blessings. Thanks and Gods' love to each of you"
- Maxine & Tom Miller

Women's Gatherings

There are two gatherings scheduled this month. The first is Thursday, December 17th at 12pm (Susan Holland's home, 1055 Buckner Rd, Mableton, 30126). The second Friday, December 18th at 6pm (Lisa Maxwell's home, 3554 Langley Oaks Ct SE, Marietta, 30067). Details have been emailed. If you have questions please contact Susan Holland or Lisa Maxwell.

Thanks From Joy Douglas

"Thank you all for the wonderful gifts of appreciation. It was & still is my pleasure to serve the Lord in such a vital ministry. All of you have been so supportive of me and the Nursery Team and I thank you for that as well. Your generosity, patience, & willingness to serve has been an encouragement and blessing to me. God is faithful and He will continue to bless this ministry. I pray that with the same love & support you have shown me, you will continue to do so with Kristin as she moves forward as the new Nursery Coordinator. I look forward to other opportunities to serve you in the power of our Lord. Thank you again, my friends". Joy

December 2020

		1	2 King's Kids & Youth 5:45pm-7:30pm Devotion & Prayer 6:45pm-7:30pm	3	4	5
6 11:00 a.m. In Person & Livestream Worship Service	7	8	9 In Person Youth Ministry Christmas Party 6:15pm @ the Holland's Home Devotion & Prayer 6:45pm-7:30pm	10	11	12
13 11:00 a.m. In Person & Livestream Worship Service	14	15	16 Devotion & Prayer 6:45 pm-7:30 pm	17	18	19
20 11:00 a.m. In Person & Livestream Worship Service	21	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 3:15pm Service Mask Required 5:00 pm Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26
27 11:00 a.m. In Person & Livestream Worship Service	28	29	30 Devotion & Prayer 6:45pm-7:30pm	31		



NOTE: Many events & activities outside of the 11 a.m. worship will be canceled/postponed until further notice. Some may be offered virtually.

December BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Evelyn Smit
- 3 Michael Milberger
- 3 Ezra Ogburn
- 4 Shirley Hovey
- 5 Ralph Canup
- 5 Anna Norvell
- 12 Patty Mae Ramsey
- 15 Ava Kelly
- 17 Frieda Breazeal
- 17 Keith DeJager
- 17 Matthew Ogburn
- 17 Wayne Ramsey
- 20 Betty Hines
- 23 Dung Phan
- 23 Reno Ramsey
- 25 Gina Fogarty
- 25 Meg King
- 26 Maxwell Smith
- 28 Marney Thomas
- 29 Mary MacGregor



“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”

James 1:17



Nativity Word Search



X S M B I Y L V Y Y J U H O L Y S F
 D O S E C A M E L S O J G S Z S T G
 J V T T Z A M A N G E R T Y F J A I
 O B A H Z O Y S C T Z G J J I Q B F
 S D R L N A T I V I T Y C R E P L T
 E B Y E Q D D O N K E Y I A I S E S
 P A J H J Y X E E J H U V A N J U G
 H B O E S H E P H E R D S N M D L S
 O Y H M T C R J X W A R X G T P L I
 P E X L O V E P E A C E C E R E V E
 K I N G S I Y F Y B P X A L D Y L P
 D H P J Y A U A D V E N T M A R Y Q



ADVENT ANGEL BABY BETHLEHEM CAMEL
 CANDLE DONKEY GIFTS HOLY JESUS
 JOSEPH KINGS LOVE MANGER NATIVITY
 PEACE SHEPHERDS STABLE STAR MARY



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED