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We Talk of Christ

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Sun, Dec 6, 2020 at 8:29 AM

Hello dear friend,

It's here!

The Christmas season has finally settled in.

Sometimes that can feel stressful because of all the things you plan to do, decorating, shopping, baking, and many other things that happen around the big event.

But that's okay. It is a big event. We should do a lot to celebrate. And isn't it wonderful that most of the world does too?

This should give us comfort.

No matter how commercialized the holiday has become, or how un-Christian people may act, we should be glad that after two thousand years, much of the world still has a grand celebration of an event as simple and common as a birth of a child, because of who that child was.

We share a wonderful common bond with many people throughout the world who believe this event is important enough to still celebrate. Many people believe, like us, that Jesus was the Savior of the world, and is their personal Savior. And many others, no matter what they believe, know something about Jesus Christ, because of Christmas.

This makes it a good time for us to do what Nephi did, "And we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ, and we write according to our prophecies, that our children may know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins." (2 Nephi 25:26)

We might even substitute 'neighbors, friends, and relatives' in place of 'children'.

The reason we talk so much about this is because Jesus Christ's birth was the condescension of God. The God and Creator of the World, whom the people of the world had known about and worshipped from the beginning because Adam and Eve taught their children about Him, (and Adam lived to be 930 years old, so they taught a lot of people, see Genesis 5:5) had finally come to the world as prophesied!

When the God of the world, that everyone has been talking about since the beginning of time, is born into the world, as a baby, it's kind of a big deal.

So we should make it a big deal.

"The condescension of God" is described by the Spirit of God to Nephi in 1 Nephi 11:13-36 and also by King Benjamin in Mosiah 3:5-8. In fact, it is talked about a lot throughout the scriptures. Look in the Topical Guide under "Jesus Christ, Condescension of" for a deeper understanding of this concept. (Here's the link: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/tg/jesus-christ-condescension-of?lang=eng>)

Condescension is the act of descending to a lower and less dignified state; of waiving the privileges of one's rank and status. Christ 'descended below all things'. He came to earth to dwell as a man, and suffered more than any man who has ever lived in order to redeem the children of God, that they might inherit His kingdom.

This is why we celebrate. And why people all over the world have been celebrating for centuries. They talked about this event centuries before it happened, and we've been talking about it ever since.

So, don't get stressed during this time. Celebrate!

It's a wonderful thing, the birth of our Savior.

Let's talk about it.

Along with actual 'talking', Here are some ways we can 'talk of Christ' in our day:

- Watch and invite others to watch the First Presidency's Christmas Devotional tonight at 5:00pm:
<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/broadcasts?lang=eng&video=Music-%26-the-Spoken-Word&mode=watch>
- Follow activities each day to Light the World: <https://www.comeuntochrist.org/light-the-world-2020>
- Come and invite others to experience our Penny Creek Ward Drive-Thru Nativity Scene and Boxed Dinner Event on Saturday, December 12th at 6:00pm. We'll have food for the ward and special friends at the beginning, then invite your whole neighborhood later at 7:00pm to experience the true meaning of Christmas. (See attached flyer. We'll send a different one later with a different time for you to pass out to your neighbors.)
- Watch the Stake Christmas Music Devotional next Sunday, December 13th at 7pm (more details to come.)
- Read and share the stories from ward members on our inspirational Penny Creek Ward Friends web site: <http://pennycreek.org>

Sister Rigby submitted the latest wonderful story here: <https://pennycreek.org/2020/12/05/luminous-stones/>

(I can't wait to read your story :) Send it to Sister Susie Larson at sularson@gmail.com)

- And make sure you invite friends to our special 'Come and See Sunday Worship Service' on December 20th at 1:00pm. On this special Sunday the Area Presidency has asked us to invite all ward members to attend in person, along with any friends you may bring. We will continue to meet the state regulations of limiting attendance to 25% of the room capacity, but we will open the cultural hall and have separated seating. Based on documented capacity of both the chapel and cultural hall, this should allow 180 people to attend (25% of 719). Masks are still required, and no congregating will be allowed, so it should be a very pandemic-safe experience. Of course, those who choose to stay home can watch the broadcast in the same way we watch every week.

Thank you for being such great representatives of Christ's church. (I know it's not easy.)

He was the Prince of Peace. Let's have peace as we 'talk of Him' and prepare for a wonderful celebration.

With love,

Bishop Williams

P.S. Those in Group B (last names beginning with M thru Z) are welcome to join us in person for our Fast and Testimony Sacrament meeting today. Everyone else can watch the live broadcast here:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQM_SmjDFmwHAA6lfjtseg/live

If you'd like to schedule tithing settlement with me, chose an available time here:

<https://calendly.com/bishoprexawilliams>

This is a very short, 10 minute virtual Zoom meeting that allows you to declare your tithing status, and we can chat a bit. If you don't let me know your status, I have to guess on the report :)

You received this email because you made your email address available to your local Church leaders. It was sent by Rex Williams, whose calling is Bishop.



Penny Creek Nativity Drive-Thru Event.png
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