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Be Merry and Rejoice!

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Sat, Dec 11, 2021 at 12:50 PM

Hello there friend,

I hope you're having a wonderful Christmas season. I apologize for missing last week. I think my reasoning is, life happens. It's a busy time of year with lots of things to do, so writing this email kind of just slipped out of the priorities. Sorry about that. I do enjoy writing them, and I appreciate the positive feedback I receive from you.

But that's a good lesson to talk about today. Isn't it interesting that because of the holiday season, there is so much happening, we get really busy, and then get stressed out and not exactly have a joyous experience? Do we easily forget that all of this activity is due to a wonderfully important event that happened over 2000 years ago?

Granted, some of the activity can be excessive and superfluous, but we should try to remember that all of it came about because of a special birth, and we should use all the lights, decorations, parties, food, events, gifts, and such to remind us of the reason for the season. Sure, there may be a very distant connection between that pumpkin pie and our Savior, but while we're eating the pie, if we remember that wonderful event, where God came to earth as a baby, maybe that pie will taste better and we can bring that distant connection a little closer.

From a scriptural point of view, it's not a stretch to let everything remind us of God.

In the Book of Mormon Alma says to Korihor, "All things denote there is a God." (Alma 30:44)

And Nephi writes, "Behold, my soul delighteth in proving unto my people the truth of the coming of Christ; for, for this end hath the law of Moses been given; and all things which have been given of God from the beginning of the world, unto man, are the typifying of him. (2 Nephi 11:4)

And in the Pearl of Great Price, the Lord tells Adam, "And behold, all things have their likeness, and all things are created and made to bear record of me, both things which are temporal, and things which are spiritual; things which are in the heavens above, and things which are on the earth, and things which are in the earth, and things which are under the earth, both above and beneath: all things bear record of me." (Moses 6:63)

So, in this unique season, that we experience every year, with all of its wonderful traditions, let us remember our Savior, Jesus Christ. Let us truly celebrate, and be happy, and joyous, that the plan worked: an all powerful God, humbled himself and came to earth as a helpless baby, then grew up in safety, showed us how to live perfectly, and performed a pure sacrifice that allows all mankind to return to the presence of deity in a glorified, resurrected body! Rejoice!

Part of rejoicing and remembering Him should also include making time for Him. Even though we can use all the lights and gifts and holiday extravaganza to remember Him, let's also use some more direct methods, like reading the scriptures, praying, and listening to messages from prophets.

The First Presidency's Christmas Devotional was broadcast last Sunday, so if you missed it, the recording is available here:

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/broadcasts?lang=eng&video=73155250776873880050&mode=watch>

Also, we can be a part of the greatest story ever told. The church has great ideas and messages on their web site here: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/comeuntochrist>

(Watch the main video on that page "Light the World with Love", it's amazing.)

The main message is that we can be a part of Christ's story by serving others, as Christ did, by being Christlike. That will bring us joy also.

Thank you for all the service you do for our ward. We have a wonderful community of good Christians.

And I'm excited for our Penny Creek Ward Christmas party tonight!

We'll have dinner, some fun crafts for the kids, and a brief music program. Bring some friends.

Let's remember Christ this Christmas.

And make it a Merry Christmas!

Bishop Williams

P.S.

- Don't miss our ward Christmas Party tonight (Dec. 11) from 6-8pm at our Penny Creek Building. Bring a treat to share.
- Our ward has also been invited to attend the Eastmont Adult Christmas Fireside on December 19th at 6:00pm at the Stake Center. All are invited to bring a favorite treat to share.
- I'm still holding Tithing Settlement appointments on Sundays. Sign up here: <https://calendly.com/bishoprexawilliams/tithing-settlement-2021>
- Silver Lake Ward is hosting a Toy Drive on Monday, Dec 13. (see attachment)
- Also remember the invitations from our Stake Presidency:
 1. Watch and discuss this [video of the Liu Family](#), a 4 min video with an authentic example of loving, sharing, and inviting. What did you observe?
 2. Read the overview of sharing the gospel in the [General Handbook of Instructions 23.1](#), including the recommended scriptures and other references.
 3. Study the following scriptures and discuss how the Savior has demonstrated the pattern of love, share and invite. John 4: 5-26, John 8: 2-11, Mark 10: 17-22, 3 Nephi 11: 13-17, 3 Nephi 17: 5-10
 4. Follow the [Light the World Calendar](#).
 5. Share with them what you learn and experience from studying those principles by sending an email to everettstakepresident@gmail.com

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.

2 attachments



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169K

 [light_the_world-2021-service.pdf](#)
330K