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For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of His government and peace There
will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over
His kingdom, To order it and establish it with
judgment and justice from that time forward,
even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts
will perform this. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH

All is now ready for the most important event in human history. It is an event planned even before the creation of the world. It is the keeping of a promise made to Abraham over 2000 years earlier. It is the fulfillment of a host of prophecies regarding a Messiah who would come to establish his kingdom. Most importantly, it is the beginning of a dynamically new relationship between God and man. The event is the coming of the Savior of the world, the Messiah—or, as referred to in the Greek, the Christ.

This Christ is not to be just another world leader, as Cyrus, Alexander, or Caesar. He is not to be just another great man of God, as Abraham, Moses, or David. He is to be God himself in human flesh! The Lord of heaven is to become a servant of the earth. God, who has previously made himself known through a nation and a law, is now to reveal himself in the most personal way possible—in the form of a man. Until now God's blessing have been reserved mostly for a chosen people, but now they are to become available to all people in every generation.

Who is this Christ, this messiah? His name is Jesus. His symbolic name, Immanuel (meaning "God with us"), signifies his deity. He is man, to be sure, but God as well; and he is God—the God of Creation—but man as well. God lowers himself so that man might be elevated. He leaves heaven so that man might enter it. To man, who

cannot begin to understand the ways of God, it is clearly a great mystery. But what a marvelous and wonderful mystery it is!

As the New Testament record now begins, the Scriptures proclaim the good news about the salvation of mankind which comes through obedient faith in Jesus the Christ. The good news begins with the miraculous birth of Jesus to a virgin of Galilee in the days of Herod, King of Judea. Then, as Jesus grows into manhood, his coming as the promised Messiah and Savior is announced by John the Baptist. As Jesus begins his own ministry, he confirms his deity with miraculous healings and other signs and wonders, and proclaims the imminent coming of the kingdom of God. His teaching calls men and women to new spiritual heights in their worship of God and in their relationships with one another.

But because his teaching challenges traditional practices of the Jewish religion of his day, and because he claims divine authority, Jesus meets strong opposition from religious leaders. That opposition ultimately leads to arrest and trial before Jewish and Roman authorities. Although falsely accused, Jesus is condemned and sentenced to die by crucifixion—an event which is intended to silence both the man and his message. Instead, the good news comes to a powerful climax when, on the third day after his death, Jesus rises from the grave and shows himself alive, proving his own miraculous resurrection. The Christian hope which derives from the gospel message is that, just as Jesus is raised from the dead, so also the righteous in Christ will be raised to eternal life!

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Song

One of my favorite parts of worship is the song service, I love the songs and singing praises to the Lord and God, the Father. I really try to pay attention to the songs we sing, because they say so much, such as...Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, early in the morning, my thoughts will rise to thee (the best way to start every day).

Remember the crossing of the Red Sea...

And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. Exodus 14:13 NKJV

Then after the deliverance, they sang...(Please note I only shared the beginning of the song.)

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: "I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea. The Lord is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will exalt Him. Exodus 15:1-2

And, we have the great psalms in the book of Psalms.

I do not possess a beautiful voice with the ability to hit broad ranges perfectly pitched, so I am thrilled to know that God hears my song differently than do the poor souls that are sitting around me in worship. I lift my voice in praise to God, and God listens to the melody that is sung from my heart as Ephesians 5:19 states:

19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

During the final performances of The Voice last season, the following song was sung, as it turned out, by the winner of the show. I must admit there were moments when it sent chills throughout me. Hopefully you know the song, because as I read the words, I cannot help but hear the melody in my heart.

Mary, did you know
That your Baby Boy will one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know
That your Baby Boy will save our sons and daughters?
Did you know
That your Baby Boy has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered
Will soon deliver you

Mary, did you know
That your Baby Boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know
That your Baby Boy will calm a storm with His hand?
Did you know
That your Baby Boy has walked where angels trod?
And when you kiss your little baby
You've kissed the face of God

Mary, did you know?

The blind will see
The deaf will hear
And the dead will live again
The lame will leap
The dumb will speak
The praises of the Lamb

Mary, did you know
That your Baby Boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know
That your Baby Boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know
That your Baby Boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding
Is the Great I Am

This song invokes images, memories of Bible lessons, and feelings of love, hope, and joy.

- You can almost see Mary holding her precious baby in her arms and feel the love passing from mother to child to the point that she can no longer contain the desire to show her love with a kiss.
- I can see Peter standing in the boat asking for Christ to call to him; the faith in his action as he stepped onto the water; the sheer amazement in the accomplishment of walking on the water; the confusion and doubt the moment his human brain said this is not possible; and the desperation as he called to the One who could and would save him.
- I can see the two blind men sitting beside the road; the hope that filled their faces at learning The Christ was coming this way; the desperation in the voices as they shouted out, "Lord, Son of David have mercy on us!" and the determination that would not silence them; the compassion of our Lord as he saw them and their faith in action; and their joy at being able to see the One who healed them from their affliction.

- I can see Jesus standing in the boat rebuking the wind and saying to the sea, “Peace, be still”; the power of the Lord of all creation.
- (*Chill building moments for me*) I see how personal the relationships with Christ are, such as.
 - To Mary, mother and child: Christ will make Mary new; the child that she delivered will soon deliver her.
 - To me and you, brothers and sisters to the King of kings: We, too, will be made new; He will save our sons and daughters.
- (*Building*) I can see the crowd of heaven where the blind will see, the deaf will hear, and the dead will live again (*those loved ones who went on before, we will see again*), the lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb (*and I pray that I do so now*).
- (*Finale*) I see my Lord who left where angels trod, geographically leaving the side of His Father to become heaven’s perfect Lamb. Without Him doing so, I would have no hope. Thank you Lord Jesus!!

Because Christ fulfilled the promise of God to become the perfect sacrifice for my sins and because of my response to the call of my Shepherd—my belief; my repentance; my confession; my death (to sin), burial (in baptism), and resurrection (to life in Christ and indwelling of the Spirit); and continually trying to live a faithful life that glorifies Father and Son—when I die my physical death, I too will be part of the dead that lives again in heaven’s nation ruled by the great I AM.

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The Father in the Face of Jesus

Are there certain sights that invariably, once you see them, remind you of something else? Since our children have grown, left home, and started full-time jobs, we have certainly experienced this. Our daughter works in transportation logistics, scheduling freight across the country, making sure Big Lots always has plenty of bottled water and that the Amazon packages arrive on front porches in time for Christmas. Now, whenever we hear train whistles or pass big rigs on the highway, we wonder whether her team got that load on the road and what her opinion is of that particular shipper.

Our son works for a cellular telephone company, and his name is on our tongue whenever we spot a new cell

tower going up or when we happen to compare relative signal strength on phones at a family gathering. In fact, whenever the Cubs were up to bat during the recent World Series, the thing that caught our eye first was that big pink sign behind home plate advertising a certain cell phone company!

And in a similar way, Jesus has told us, it should be with Him. In John 14, Jesus addresses His disciples:

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

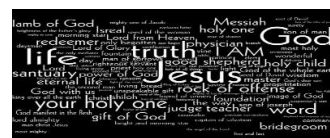
Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

Jesus answered, “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”

The Old Testament prophet Isaiah described the Holy One of Israel to the people in Babylonian exile as incomprehensible, inexhaustible, incomparable. Repeatedly, he quoted God, “I am God, and there is no other.” But Isaiah also wrote of a suffering Servant to come, and there was awakened in the hearts of the people a powerful yearning for their Messiah.

And so the Holy One of Israel came into this world to make Himself known as never before. When those disciples looked into the kind, loving, strong, and wise face of Jesus the Son – although it was the face of an ordinary looking man – they were nevertheless seeing the Father. And it is the same for us when we look into the face of the Messiah, the one who reminds, explains, and declares to us the very nature of God. *“For in Christ all the fullness of the deity lives in bodily form.”* Colossians 2:9

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Christ is the Head of the Church of Which—
 We are alive, ambassadors, askers.
 We are beloved, blessed, the body, bond servants,
 bought, the bride.

We are called, caring, children of God, chosen, cleansed,
the comforted, commandment keepers, cross bearers.

We are dependent, disciples, doers.

We are the elect.

We are faithful, family, followers, foreigners, forgiven,
forgiving, free.

We are gatherers, gentle, giving, happy.

We are heirs, hopeful, holy, hungry for righteousness.

We are imitators.

We are joyous.

We are kind, the kingdom, knockers, known.

We are laborers, lambs, a light to the lost, loved, loving.

We are meek, merciful, messengers.

We are needy.

We are obedient.

We are patient, peacemakers, the persecuted, poor in
spirit.

We are a royal priesthood, pure in heart.

We are receivers, redeemed, rich, righteous through His
blood.

We are saints, salt, sanctified by His blood, seekers,
sheep, slaves to righteousness, soldiers, sowers,
submissive.

We are thirsty for righteousness, trusting.

We are united.

We are victorious.

We are waterers, we are well.

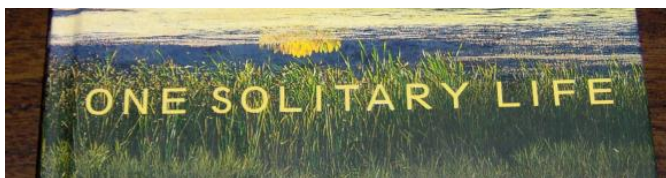
We are zealous.

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The compiler of this piece is unknown.

The author of the descriptives above is our God.

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### *One Solitary Life*

*He was born in an obscure village*

*The child of a peasant woman*

*He grew up in another obscure village*

*Where he worked in a carpenter shop*

*Until he was thirty*

*When public opinion turned against him*

*He never wrote a book*

*He never held an office*

*He never went to college*

*He never lived in a big city*

*He never traveled more than two hundred miles*

*From the place where he was born*

*He did none of the things*

*Usually associated with greatness*

*He had no credentials but himself*

*He was only thirty three*

*His friends ran away*

*One of them denied him*

*He was turned over to his enemies*

*And went through the mockery of a trial*

*He was nailed to a cross between two thieves*

*While dying, his executioners gambled for his  
clothing*

*The only property he had on earth*

*When he was dead*

*He was laid in a borrowed grave*

*Through the pity of a friend*

*Twenty centuries have come and gone*

*And today Jesus is the central figure of the  
human race*

*And the leader of mankind's progress.*

*All the armies that have ever marched*

*All the navies that have ever sailed*

*All the parliaments that have ever sat*

*All the kings that ever reigned put together*

*Have not affected the life of mankind on earth*

*As powerfully as that one solitary life*

*Dr. James Allan Francis*

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*Sunrise*  
The Newsletter For Women By Christian Women

*Sunrise* is a monthly newsletter written and/or assembled by members of the Rolla Church of Christ. All previous issues can be accessed by going to <http://www.seekgrowserve.org>. Click on Resources, then on Sunrise Newsletter. You will find the current issue plus all previous issues.

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