
Subject: Pastor's Weekly Email

From: News from FCCV (lists@firstchurchofvernon.org)

To:

Date: Friday, December 23, 2016 1:25 PM

Family and Friends of FCCV,



Are you excited about it being Christmas?? Does your heart get a little flutter when you think about Christmas Day? I hope so! I'm not talking about wondering if the wireless headphones you wanted, or the new Nintendo games that just came out are wrapped and under the tree. I am talking about remembering ... truly thinking about and rejoicing over the day that God came to us in human flesh. God! A human! God Almighty showed God's love for us by being born into a world that desperately needs peace, hope, joy and love. This gift of Love is called Jesus! The prophet Isaiah declares God's gift to us will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace" and that his kingdom will be established and sustained "with justice and righteousness now and forever." We are recipients of this Good News – wondrous, joyous news – that a Savior is born, Christ the Lord!

Join us Saturday for our 5:30 p.m. service where we will invite all the children up to join us as we tell the Christmas Story using the ABCs. And then, at 11 p.m., we will have our candlelight service. Also, Christmas Day is on a Sunday. In our time together on Sunday morning, we will share our reflection of what the meaning of Christmas really is, and then have a time where the congregation can choose favorite Christmas hymns to sing.

May the joy and peace and love of God fill your heart today ... and each day to come!

Merry Christmas!
Robin

Prelude to the Preludes

Popular culture has spun some amazing yarns around the Christmas holiday. We have talking snowmen, flying reindeer, marching nutcrackers, the Grinch and on and on. After looking into the origins of a couple carols with not-so-obvious references, it's plainly not just a recent trend. For instance, "Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella" is thought to have been inspired by the paintings of manger scenes in which two young girls carry torches to illuminate the stable. "I Saw Three Ships" dates back to 15th century England, but is thought to originally refer to three ships which brought the relics of the three wise men to Cologne, Germany in the 12th century. Over

the years the holy family was substituted for the magi and the ships sailed into Bethlehem--twenty miles from the nearest open water!

I hope that amidst all the excitement and festivities our church services can help us contemplate the REAL and amazing story of Christ's birth, "God Among Us," the Divine Mystery. Have a blessed Christmas! --James



News from FCCV

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To be sure you receive our regular mailings and emergency announcements please add lists@firstchurchofvernon.org to your Contacts.

Attachments

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