

1. **GOD LOVES YOU** and wants you to have **eternal life with Him**.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

But most people aren't experiencing a meaningful life and aren't sure that they have eternal life because...

2. Man has a **SIN problem** which **SEPARATES** him from GOD. Every one has sinned.

Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

3. The **good news** is that **JESUS CHRIST** is God's **solution** to your sin problem. He is the **ONLY way** to heaven.

1 Peter 3:18 "For Christ also died for sins once and for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God..."

4. Therefore you must **REPENT** of your sins and place your **FAITH** in **JESUS alone** to **save** you.

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the GIFT OF GOD; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."

5. Upon believing and receiving Jesus, you have a **NEW LIFE** with complete assurance of **SALVATION**.

1 John 5:13 "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."



WORSHIP SERVICES

ADDRESS

CONTACT US

SOCIAL MEDIA

10:00 AM – 12:00 NN
700 ROYAL AVE.
NEW WESTMINSTER, BC

32855 HARWOOD CR.
ABBOTSFORD, BC V2S7A6

(778) 255-5777
CONTACT@CCFVANCOUVER.ORG

CCFVANCOUVER.ORG
f CCF VANCOUVER



The Good News of Great Joy

(Luke 2:8-14)

Let us reflect on what took place on that night when Jesus was born.

The obscure birthplace.

Luke, as a historian, tied the events of Jesus' birth to world history by referencing the Roman Emperor and the Regional Governor during that period. Caesar Augustus ordered that a census be taken throughout the Roman empire. The Roman census were taken for tax purposes. Joseph was a descendant of David and came from Bethlehem. Although Mary was going to have a baby soon, Joseph had no choice but to follow the decree to pay his taxes. He had to leave his comfort zone in Nazareth to take that long, difficult journey of 90 miles to Bethlehem (vv.1-5, ESV).

There are times in our lives when God takes us away from our comfort zone. It is hard when this happens, but remember that in every happening or event, God is working his plan and purposes.

What is the significance of Bethlehem in the Christmas story?

700 years before this time, the prophet Micah had foretold that the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2, ESV). Ancient Jewish writings outside the bible also support this messianic prophecy concerning Bethlehem. Here is an excerpt from the Jerusalem Talmud written 1,600 years ago: "The King Messiah... from where does he come forth? From the royal city of Bethlehem in Judah." - Jerusalem Talmud, Berakoth 5a.

The precise fulfillment of predictions or prophecies in the Bible such as, for example, the place where the Messiah will come from reveals:

1. The deity of Jesus. His birthplace was foretold hundreds of years earlier, precisely and definitely. The One who pre-existed creation, the One who is from ancient of days, would come from Bethlehem. This implies that if Jesus came from the ancient of days, if Jesus is God in the flesh, what He says matters: "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3, ESV), and "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." (John 11:25, ESV)
2. When God speaks, it will happen. In Isaiah 14:24, it is written - "The LORD of hosts has sworn: 'As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand..." In 55:11, it is also written - "so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. God's Word is unchanging and eternal, unlike the world we live in.
3. God is sovereign and is in control. In the eyes of the Roman world, the emperor Cesar Augustus may seem to be in charge, but in fact, God purposed that His Son was to be born in Bethlehem. Everything that took place that night was in accordance with the Divine plan. Therefore remember this when you are facing hardships: At all times and in all places, God is always in control and He works his will. Therefore, you can trust him no matter how bleak the situation.

The lowly "delivery room."

Upon reaching Bethlehem, Joseph and Mary could not find a place to stay, so they ended up finding shelter in a dark, smelly, and dirty manger. "And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." (v. 6-7)

The first recipients of the good news.

It was not to the powerful, learned or wealthy, that the angelic beings first announced the birth of the Messiah but to the shepherds, who were people held in low esteem. Later on, Mary also received the wise men from the east. One commentator said that this order pointed to the history and future of Christianity where the humble and the meek are exalted.

The shepherds were terrified when an angelic being illuminated by light suddenly appeared from out of the blue in the fields and in the darkness of the night, And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Luke 2:10.

The substance of good news of great joy

¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." This is the central part of the whole passage, as announced by the angels who were the bearers of good news. For a very long time, the Jews had been hoping and waiting for the Savior to come. That is why this is good news of great joy because finally, after such a very long wait, the Savior had been born to them.

Without Jesus, we are lost for all eternity because our sins separate us from God. In fact, the apostle Paul says that outside Christ, we are spiritually dead and are objects of God's wrath. When Peter and John were brought before the council and were prohibited by the religious authorities to stop telling the people about Jesus, they replied: "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12, NIV)

The glorious proclamation of the good news.

Though God Incarnate entered the world in such humble circumstances, the proclamation of his coming was glorious. "All heavens broke loose," as John MacArthur would put it. In fact, this world had never seen such glorious proclamation as what took place on that particular night. No emperor, no king, no royal family, has received such glorious proclamation as this. What about you and me? What is our response to the coming of God in the flesh?

Discipleship Groups (or D-Groups) meet regularly in different parts of the Lower Mainland to study the bible, pray and support each other. Connect with us at contact@ccfvancouver.org and we will find a group for you.

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
Single Ladies (New West) 1:00 – 3:00pm	Couples (Surrey) 7:00 – 9:00pm	Single Ladies (Vancouver) 5:30-7:30pm	Couples (Richmond) 4:30-6:30pm
	Single Ladies (Richmond) 7:00 – 8:30pm		
	Women's (Richmond) 6:30 – 8:30pm		
	Men's (Richmond) 7:00 – 9:00pm		
OTHER DGROUPS MEETING REGULARLY			
Women's (Vancouver)			
Mixed Women's (Surrey/Skype)			
Young Men's (Richmond/Burnaby)			
Couples (Tri-cities)			

ORDER OF SERVICE

Call to worship ♦ Praise and worship ♦ Children dismissal ♦
Sermon ♦ Response song ♦ Benediction



Free parking will be available for the use of CCF Vancouver from 9:15am to 12:15pm. Please refer to your CCF Vancouver email for more details.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Please use CCF tithe envelopes (available at usher's table) for ALL tithes, offerings and donations. Our tithe box is located at the usher's table. *If you're giving via cheque, please write it to CCF Vancouver.* You can now give ONLINE!! Just go to www.ccfvancouver.org/give/ to donate.

✂

Name _____ Phone/Email _____

Prayer Request/Answered Prayer

Please drop in tithe boxes