

# Pastor's Pen

Rejoice!

*"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. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'" Luke 2:10-11*

Christmas. What comes to mind when you think of Christmas? Does it make you think of Santa Claus, Christmas trees, gift-giving, family gatherings, or parties? "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" was released in 1963. Andy Williams sang it on his first Christmas Album. To many people, the song sums up what Christmas is all about. The following are some of the lyrics:

It's the most wonderful time of the year  
With the kids jingle belling  
And everyone telling you be of good cheer  
It's the most wonderful time of the year  
It's the hap-happiest season of all  
With those holiday greetings and gay happy meetings  
When friends come to call  
It's the hap- happiest season of all  
There'll be parties for hosting  
Marshmallows for toasting  
And caroling out in the snow  
There be scary ghost stories  
And tales of the glories of  
Christmases long, long ago  
It's the most wonderful time of the year  
There be much mistletoeing  
And hearts will be glowing  
When loved ones are near  
It's the most wonderful time  
Oh the most wonderful time  
Of the year."

When I think of Christmas, the lyrics to the above song are not what comes to mind. When I think of Christmas, I think of the word rejoice. The word rejoice is defined as to feel joy or great delight. Why would Christians rejoice when they think of Christmas?

Because God sent Jesus Christ, His Son, to redeem His sheep. That night that our Savior was born, the angel brought to the shepherds the news of great joy that the Savior had been born. The shepherds went to find the baby Jesus and see what God had done. To understand the true meaning of why we celebrate Christmas, you have to understand why Jesus came.

He was born of a virgin and was fully man and fully God. He came to save men and women from their sins. He was born to die to set believers free from the slavery of sin. Since God is holy and we are not, God's anger against our sin must be accounted for. If we got what we deserve, we would all be sent to hell for all eternity. Instead, God sent His only Son to pay the price for our redemption. Only a perfect sacrifice would satisfy God's wrath against our sin. So, Jesus became the perfect sacrifice, the One who knew no sin, became sin for us to set us free to receive God's mercy.

If you have made Jesus Lord and Savior of your life, you are a child of God, and you can rejoice this Christmas, and every day you draw breath knowing that you are His for all eternity. As you rejoice this Christmas, don't allow the true meaning of Christmas to be lost. The following are the words of the song Noel that help remind us why Christ was born of women.

"Love incarnate, love divine, Star and angels gave the sign,  
Bow to babe on bended knee, The Savior of humanity, Unto us a Child is born, He shall reign forevermore, Noel, Noel,  
Come and see what God has done, Noel, Noel, The story of amazing love! The light of the world, given for us, Noel, Son of God and Son of man, There before the world began, Born to suffer, born to save, Born to raise us from the grave, Christ the everlasting Lord, He shall reign forevermore."

## Quote of the Week

"What we celebrate at Christmas is not so much the birth of a baby, but the incarnation of God Himself."  
— R.C. Sproul

May the Lord bless you and keep you as you rejoice as we remember the birth of our Savior.

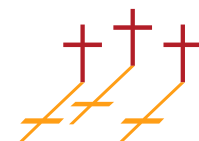
Your shepherd,  
Pastor Mark

# Grace Gems

J. R. Miller

"On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh." Matthew 2:11 They were not content merely to worship the King, showing him homage in word or in posture; but they also laid their gifts at his feet. It is not enough for us to sing our songs of praise to Christ, to bow before him in reverent worship, and to speak our heart's homage in words. We should bring our gifts too, the pledges of our love, to lay at his feet.

There is a great deal of mere sentimentality in the consecration of many people. It is sentiment only; and when there is call for gifts or sacrifices, or for real services—the sentiment instantly vanishes. People sing missionary hymns with great warmth, and when the collection-plate comes to them—they sing on but allow the plate to pass by. They make prayers that God would send laborers into his vineyard, but they do not themselves respond to God's call for laborers and errand-runners. We need to learn the lesson: that our singing and praying can never go beyond our living. Not only did these magi bring gifts, but they brought rich and costly gifts; we should bring our best—our gold, incense, and myrrh—the alabaster box of our heart's deepest love, and the best of all our life and service. Too often we give Christ only what is left over after we have taken all we desire for self-indulgence, or for the promotion of our own ambitions. We should always let him have the best!



# Weekly Gatherings



## Bible Classes

Old Testament  
New Testament  
Young Parents  
Young Adults  
Sunday Morning @ 9AM



## Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM  
Men's Bible Study  
Every other Saturday:  
Women of Grace | 9am



## Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM @ Royall's  
Every other Thursday @ 7PM  
@ Patrick's & Cox's



## Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team and forgot to sign up, please contact the team leader at the appropriate email address.



## Youth Study

Wednesdays @ 6:30PM  
Youth Study  
AWANA @ 6:30PM



## Service Times

Sunday Service 10:30AM  
Children's Church @ 10:30AM

### Giving from service on 12/12/2021

General Offering .....	16,830.04
Building Fund .....	21,388.60
Uganda .....	250.00
Benevolence .....	1,000.00
Total .....	\$39,468.64

Attendance .....	170
Sunday School .....	106
Online .....	24

### Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org  
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org  
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org  
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org  
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org  
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org  
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org  
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org  
Maintenance-maintenance@ghbcva.org  
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org  
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org  
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org  
Security-security@ghbcva.org



Grace Harvest  
Baptist Church  
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# Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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