

As we enter this new year, 2024, I want to share with you these closing paragraphs from the three sermons I preached on December 24, 2023. I share these as a reminder that even though Christmas is done according to our calendar, the Good News of Christmas is never done. Blessings to you all on this brand new year.

I pray that you know this amazing God of ours, who weaves a beautiful story, one that no human imagination could conjure up. I pray that you know Jesus Christ, and thus, in His perfect timing, be taken up someday to be with Him forever. This is the beginning of the story of Christmas, according to God's Word.

[Closing paragraph of the Advent 4 sermon]

I guarantee you, that in the matter of years, or even months or weeks, that you will forget what you received from under your Christmas tree. But the gift of Jesus, born on Christmas, will never leave your heart, because God is crazy in love with you. I cannot say that enough. If you remember nothing else from tonight, remember that. As a sinner, God loves you.

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

And so, men and women, children of all ages, listen up, the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way.

[Closing paragraph of the Christmas Eve, 4 PM, sermon]

*This well-known verse from Psalm 46, **Be still and know that I am God**, is not an invitation to calm down and be at peace. It is a command. Settle down. Take it easy. Take a breath. Remember, I AM GOD, not you. When one is not at peace it is because they have forgotten who God is. They have forgotten that God has overcome the world through Jesus. They have forgotten that God already reigns on high and is our sovereign King. And so the psalmist reminds us that God WILL BE exalted among the nations. God WILL BE exalted in the earth. Remember that, always.*

When wars and chaos erupt in your life, you can be at peace. Jesus Christ has been born. Jesus Christ has been crucified for the forgiveness of your sins. Jesus Christ has risen from the grave and now sits at the right hand of God.

Be still.

Be at peace.

And...

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” (Luke 2:14)

This is the Good News of Christmas!

[Closing paragraph of the Christmas Eve, 10 PM, sermon]

To God be all glory, praise, honor, worship and thanksgiving throughout this new year, Amen.