

**A Publication of the Port Orchard Church of Christ
December 17, 2023**

An Innocent Distraction?

This is the time of year the whole world focuses on Jesus—but not Jesus the radical intenerate preacher who made his family, friends and Jewish authorities uncomfortable. That Jesus doesn't even come to mind for many. No, most focus on the baby Jesus laying in the manger and ignore the very real-life implications his birth had for folks like Mary and Joseph—the innocents of Bethlehem. We like the baby Jesus, the manger, the wise men, the shepherds—but please don't bother us with the other details!

You could write this off as an innocent distraction—you could—if it weren't so serious. In the movie *Talladega Nights*. Ricky Bobby is leading the prayer for the family meal. He addresses his prayer to "Lord, baby Jesus" and "tiny, infant Jesus" and "8 pound- 6 ounce- newborn infant Jesus." He can't even finish his prayer before his wife chimes in— "Hey, you know, sweetie, Jesus did grow up." Ricky quips back, "I like the Christmas Jesus best and I'm saying grace. When you say grace, you can say it to grown up Jesus or teen-age Jesus or to bearded Jesus or whoever you want."

Yes, this character's understanding about Jesus is ridiculous—even idolatrous—but it's also not far from what many believe. Yes, we should celebrate Jesus' miraculous birth during Christmastime, but here's the problem: Ricky Bobby's wife was right! Jesus did grow up. He grew to be our Savior—to do the work for which he was born. We can't pick and choose the Jesus we want based upon how convenient he is to our life and preferences. That is idolatry in raw form.

So, should we celebrate Christmas? By all means, yes! Celebrate the coming of our Lord in human form. It is today what it was then, "...good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people." (Luke 2:10) However, just as Paul reminded the church in Philippi, let us not forget who he is, why he came, where he is now and what that means for us all.

[Jesus] Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped; but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil. 2:6-11 NIV1984)

"That's why we praise him; that's why we sing. That's why we give him our everything. That's why we bow down and worship this King ..." (Tommy Walker, 1999)

- Roger Woods

Our Prayer List

- Wayne's grandson Cassidy (Sydney's son) recently had surgery for a growth on his neck. It has come back and is larger than before and getting close to his Adam's Apple. The medical staff took samples and sent them to the lab. Apparently, the fluid builds up again and is still trying to cure itself. Wayne appreciates the prayers.
- Brittany Pringle is in ICU at St Michael's recovering from pneumonia in her right lung and a cyst on her pancreas. She gave birth to her son Ryatt on November 30 at which time both spent a few days in ICU before going home. She requests no visitors. Please lift Brittany, her partner and son and the family in your prayers for healing.
- Please lift this little boy and his family up in your prayers to our Great Physician.
- Pray for Brooke and Gia, who are not feeling well.
- Pray for Brian Bungart, who will have another MRI with to determine if the tumor on his spine is cancerous.
- Please pray for Darrell, Laura, young Brandon and Julia leaving for Honduras and returning December 17th.
- Pray for others who have illnesses in their families
- Please pray for the less fortunate who are out in this cold weather.
- Please lift Gary Chasteen and his family in prayer. His nephew Sean passed away on Thanksgiving Day.
- Praise God that Shari's son David doesn't have cancer, but he is being treated for a lung infection.
- Praise for our celebration of the Mercy Mobile's 1st year!
- Pray for the Snypp family as Dave's father recently passed away.
- Pray for suggestions for those who may become future Deacons or Elders. Should you have any suggestions, please submit the names to the Spiritual Leadership Team (SLT) - Darrell & Laura, Brad and Eunice, Bob and Sharon or to our Deacons Gary, Troy, Brad and Cisco.
- Pray for Israel.
- Pray for the Herbert family's mother and sister will be having surgery this week.
- Praise God, who is good ALL THE TIME.



POCOC Web Site (<http://pococ.weebly.com/>)

- Weekly Bulletin – Go to <http://pococ.weebly.com/> then click on Bulletin & Newsletters
- Pre-Covid audio sermons are also still online. Click on Teachings
- Current Event Calendar - Click on News & Events
- Live stream of worship services on YouTube Channel - Previous video recordings, too: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL_SrX11URAkOYw7JOR9ZIQ then click on the desired video. Please subscribe to be notified when new videos post or when we go live.



Sunday Worship December 17, 2023 (10:30 am – 12:00 – noon) (No children's church is this week.) Watch live-stream or after our worship time: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL_SrX11URAkOYw7JOR9ZIQ					
December Servers – Brian Bungart Elijah Herbert Dan Gross Terry Bratcher					
Speaker: Trent Herbert	Singing Jon Powless	Scripture: Trent Herbert	Prayer: Bob McDaniel	Communion: Cisco Velez	Offering: Cisco Velez
For the latest worship leader schedule, click this link: http://pococ.weebly.com/uploads/2/6/7/2/26721665/worship_leaders.pdf					
9:30 am Adult Class: Auditorium Led by Trent Herbert			Children Class: Downstairs Two Classes: children and pre-teen		
Call Laura Fry or the Church Office (360-876-2604) for Zoom Meeting ID					
Men's Fellowship Downstairs Fellowship Room Tuesdays - 10:00 am			Ladies in the Word Upstairs Overflow Room Tuesdays - 10:00 am		
Bible Class & Prayer Book of Daniel (in person or on Zoom) Wednesdays: 5:00 - 6:00 pm			Ladies Prayer Group LaDonna's home – 10:00 am		
Port Orchard Church of Christ 4135 Carr Lane SE Port Orchard, WA 98366 360-876-2604 - churchpococ@gmail.com			December 10 th - Tithes & Offerings – \$ 8,838.00 If you have any questions, please give me a call. God bless you. Gary Chasteen (cell) 360-731-4104		

Communion and Tithes & Offerings

The bread and fruit of the vine will be served during our communion time. You also have the option to pick up your communion supplies as you enter the auditorium. It contains both the juice and the bread.

There are also a few options for giving your tithes & offerings:

- 1) The collection box is in the foyer at the entrance to the auditorium.
- 2) Online bill-pay with your bank or credit union. Your bank will mail your check for you.
- 3) Mail your tithe/offering check directly to the Church address below. We have a lock mailbox.

Happy Birthday!

December: Madison Casely – 13, Jedidiah Herbert – 17, Bonnie Mitchell – 18, Barbara Foran – 24, Wayne Hammock – 25, Gary White – 28, Jake Orser – 31, Randy VanLeuvan 31.

January 2024: Mark David – 2, Michelle Herbert – 4, Pat Woodrow – 9, Isaiah Zepf – 13, Karen Taylor – 18, Tammy White – 29, Myron David – 30.

Breath of Heaven

Verse 1

I have traveled many moonless nights
Cold and weary with a Babe inside
And I wonder what I've done
Holy Father You have come
And chosen me now to carry Your Son

Verse 2

I am waiting in a silent prayer
I am frightened by the load I bear
In a world as cold as stone
Must I walk this path alone
Be with me now be with me now

Chorus

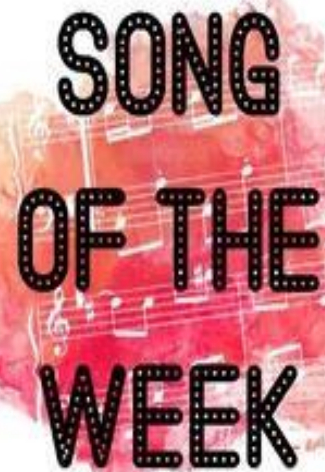
Breath of Heaven hold me together
Be forever near me
Breath of Heaven
Breath of Heaven lighten my darkness
Pour over me Your holiness
For You are holy
Breath of Heaven

Verse 3

Do You wonder as You watch my face
If a wiser one should have had my place
But I offer all I am
For the mercy of Your plan
Help me be strong help me be help me

“Who will not fear you, Lord,
and bring glory to your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship before you,
for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

Revelation 15:4



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[Breath of Heaven](#)

Breath of Heaven

CCLI Song # 1128784

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