

A Publication of the Port Orchard Church of Christ December 24, 2023

'Tis The Season

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11)

Once upon a time long ago it was decided by human beings that December 25th of each year should be celebrated as the birthday of Jesus. Some believe so firmly in this day and season that it is nothing short of blasphemy to raise a question as to engaging in this day as a religious observance. I find myself wondering, if Christmas is to be observed in a religious vein and celebrated as the birth of Christ, why is it not proclaimed as such in God's word? Why are the men who wrote under God's inspiration totally silent about this observance (2 Pet.2:3; Jude 3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)? Considering the way Christmas is observed in a religious vein with no biblical authority to do so coupled with the deceptive activities based on falsehoods that are promoted and engaged in as a part of this season should raise a red flag urging us to be very careful as to how we observe this time of year. Please understand, I do not seek to tell you what to do or believe about celebrating Christmas. Everyone must decide for themselves what to do and what not to do.

With some exceptions this is truly one of the happiest times of the year, filled with excitement. It is a time when love, kindness and generosity fills the hearts of men and women everywhere. But I do want to remind one and all that true and lasting happiness comes only through being recipients of the many blessings, both physical and spiritual, that are bestowed upon us every day of the year by a loving and faithful God (James 1:16-17, Prov. 8:32, Prov. 28:20, Eph. 1:3, 2 Pet. 1:2-4). Our hearts should be overflowing with happiness and excitement every day of this earthly journey because as a child of God we have the blessing of a hope that goes beyond this earthly life with all of its celebrations (Col. 1:12-14, John 14:1-3, 2 Cor. 5:1-10).

We often hear the expression, "Jesus is the reason for the season." The problem here is that multitudes of people seem to forget that Jesus is the reason for every season of the year, not just this magical time of year only. Can you imagine what would happen if the same measure of love, kindness, forgiveness, generosity and thoughts of God and His Son remained constant in the hearts of men and women throughout every season of the year?

Of a truth, the birth of Jesus was and is a most significant event in the history of man. But I can only wonder how many of the multitudes of people celebrating His birth today know and have truly accepted the full meaning of His life, death, burial and resurrection from the dead. Never forget that if He had not died on that cross and then come forth from that tomb, His birth would be no cause for celebration at any time of the year. What joy should reign in our hearts. We should be filled with excitement and happiness. The news is good, we have a Savior who is Christ the Lord (John 3:16, Rom. 5:8-11, Acts 4:12, 1 Pet. 1:3-9). If we really want to honor Him, let's do it 365 days a year by showing our love for Him through an exacting obedience to Him every one of those 365 days.

- Charles Hicks

Our Prayer List

- Brittany Pringle is in ICU at St Michael's recovering from pneumonia in her right lung and a cyst on her pancreas. She requests no visitors. Please lift Brittany, her partner and son and the family in your prayers for healing.
- Pray for Brian Bungart, who will have another MRI with to determine if the tumor on his spine is cancerous.
- Praise that Nancy Armenta received a good report on her neck and will have it re-checked in 6 months.
- Pray for Ivana who is involved in an occult group. Pray for her family .
- 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. Should you have any suggestions, please submit the names to the Spiritual Leadership Team (SLT) - Darrell and Laura, Brad and Eunice, Bob and Sharon or to our Deacons Gary, Troy, Brad and Cisco.
- Pray for Israel.
- Pray for our Nation and Leaders



“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

- Luke 2:11

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 24, 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	
Christmas Eve Sunday, December 24, 2023	MESSIAH!!
9:30 am Adult Class: Auditorium Led by Trent Herbert	No Children Church:
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 17 th - Tithes & Offerings – \$ 4,644.75
	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 above. We have a lock mailbox.

Happy Birthday!

December: 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.

Welcome to our World

Verse 1

Tears are falling
Hearts are breaking
How we need to hear from God
You've been promised
We've been waiting
Welcome holy Child
Welcome holy Child

Verse 2

Hope that You don't mind our manger
How I wish we would have known
But long-awaited holy Stranger
Make Yourself at home
Please make Yourself at home

Verse 3

Bring Your peace
Into our violence
Bid our hungry souls be filled
Word now breaking heaven's silence
Welcome to our world
Welcome to our world

Verse 4

Fragile finger sent to heal us
Tender brow prepared for thorn
Tiny heart whose blood will save us
Unto us is born
Unto us is born

Verse 5

So wrap our injured flesh around You
Breathe our air and walk our sod
Rob our sin and make us holy
Perfect Son of God
Perfect Son of God
Welcome to our world



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Welcome to our World

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