

Preached by Rev. Wiman Kim  
Bush Hill Presbyterian Church  
Alexandria, Virginia  
Dec, 24, 2009 7:00 Service  
Christmas Eve

## **GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY**

Luke 2:8-14

Every Christmas season I am reminded of one story, "The Gift of the Magi," written by O. Henry. "The Gift of the Magi" is a story about a couple loving each other. Jim and Della were very poor. It was Christmas Eve. Della had only \$1.87 to buy a present for her husband. There was nothing for her to do except for weeping, but then she had an idea. Even though the couple was as poor as they could be, they had two things that they were very fond of. Those were Jim's gold watch and Della's beautiful hair. When the idea came into her head, she immediately went outside and sold her hair. With the money she earned, she bought a beautiful chain for her husband's watch. When Jim returned home from work, he was shocked when he saw his wife. He turned out to have sold his watch to buy a comb for his wife. Even though these presents became useless, they showed their love for each other.

What kind of Christmas Gift do you expect? Did you receive any Christmas Gift?

According to the Bible, Luke 2:8-14, God gave us His only Son as a gift to save our lives. It's the most precious gift that we can keep forever. Even if you did not receive any Christmas Gift from people, all of you already received new lives through His birth, death on the cross, and resurrection. This is a real Christmas gift. It is good news of great joy for you.

I would like to quote from Charles Spurgeon:

Earth's joy is small, her mirth is trivial, but heaven has sent us joy immeasurable, fit for immortal minds. Inasmuch as no note of time is appended, and no intimation is given that the message will ever be reversed, we may say that it is a lasting joy, a joy which will ring all down the ages, the echoes of which shall be heard until the trumpet brings the resurrection; aye, and onward for ever and for ever. For when God sent forth the angel in his brightness to say, "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people," he said as much as, "From this time forth it shall be joy to the sons of men; there shall be peace to the human race, and goodwill towards men for ever and for ever, as long as there is glory to God in the highest."

Since this joy is expressly associated with the glory of God, by the Words, "Glory to God in the highest," we may be quite clear that it is a pure and holy joy. No other would an angel have proclaimed, and, indeed, no other joy is joy. The wine pressed from the grapes of Sodom may sparkle and foam, but it is bitterness in the end, and the dregs thereof are death. Holy joy is the joy of heaven, and that is the very cream of joy. God save us from unholy peace and from unholy joy! The joy announced by the angel of the nativity is as pure as it is lasting, as holy as it is great.

My dear friends in Christ, that baby in the manger is the light of my world, even when my world is in shambles. The infant Jesus is our living, breathing sign of the immeasurable love that God has had for all of us from the very beginning.

Christmas is good news of great joy. Christmas is the living promise that we are never ever alone. No matter where we are in life, no matter in what condition we find ourselves, no matter

how far we might stray away, or how unfaithful we are, God, the supreme lover, will pursue us in love for eternity!  
It's a love that never stops shining.

May God bless each of you and those you love this Christmas Eve!