

Good news.  
Great **JOY!**  
northminster

GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS

December 5, 2010

"So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem and Judah, David's town, for the census. As a descendent of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancé, who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for her to give birth, and she gave birth to a son, her firstborn."  
Luke 2:4-6 (MSG)

To get your heart ready for Christmas...

When you see a NATIVITY SCENE...

"In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria." Luke 2:1-2 (NRSV)

...remember "this REALLY HAPPENED in human history. And it happened, in part, FOR ME."

When you hear CHRISTMAS MUSIC,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward [all]." Luke 2:14 (KJV)

...remember THE FIRST CHRISTMAS CAROL when the angels sang,  
"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward [all]."

When you receive a CHRISTMAS CARD...

"I have called you friends." John 15:15 (NRSV)

...remember to give thanks that I MATTER TO OTHERS and I MATTER TO GOD.

When you use a CREDIT CARD...

"Christ sacrificed His life's blood to set us free, which means that our sins are now forgiven. Christ did this because of God's amazing grace." Ephesians 1:7 (CEV)

"What a God we have! ... Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven, and the future starts now!" 1 Peter 1:3-4 (MSG)

...remember that MY DEBT came due one day and Jesus paid it.

When you receive a GIFT...

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:8 (NRSV)

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16 (KJV)

...remember to give thanks for GOD'S CHRISTMAS GIFT to you.

"May you be able to feel and understand... how long, how wide, how deep, and how high God's love really is and experience this love for yourselves..."  
Ephesians 3:18-19 (LB)