

## Weekly Connector: What Child is This?

December 1, 2017

Hello Church!

This evening, Sherry and I are continuing the process of decorating our home for Christmas. I admit I don't enjoy the process, but I enjoy the outcome.

While we are working on our home decorations, the church Christmas decorations are up! I spoke with Karen Maxwell on Monday as she was working her magic through the building and offered to get her some help. Her reply? No help needed! "This is my joy!", she said. Whoa! I'm so thankful when I hear of Christ-followers doing what they enjoy doing as they serve the Lord! Yay, God!

As you enjoy the Christmas decorations throughout the church, spend a moment and thank the Lord for folks like Karen and her family (the Oberlys and Walkers) who serve the Lord with joy!



This Christmas, we will spend our Advent Sundays celebrating Jesus' birth as we sing the songs of the season. Two songs, in particular, capture the essence of the sermons that I am privileged to offer you this season. One song I'll describe today is "What Child Is This?". The other song I hope to describe to you next week.

Sung to the tune of "Greensleeves", the words of "What Child is This?" were written by William Chatterton Dix, and inspired from his poem entitled, "The Manger Throne". The words paint a beautiful picture of the Nativity:

What Child is this, who laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Then, the refrain announces the true result of this incredible gift:

This, this is Christ the King  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

The second verse describes his humble arrival...

Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here,  
The silent Word is pleading.

...while the second refrain explains the purpose of His birth, His life, and His death:

Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through,  
The Cross be borne, for me, for you:  
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

In this series, we shall learn that the gift of God is always more than what it originally appears. My prayer is that your Christmas will also be more - more joy and peace than you could possibly imagine.

*Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*  
Eph. 3:20-21

I love you, Church!

Pastor greg

\*Picture is called "Holy Night" by Carlo Maratta

