



Happy Birthday Jesus!

So Christmas is finally upon us! Merry Christmas! Actually, the enthusiasm to say that and my energy levels for the joy of the season is almost at empty tank levels. How can a single month be so draining?

At the beginning of December, the end of the year is close at hand. The kids are keen to open the Advent calendar boxes, or decorate the house with lights, a tree and nativity scenes. Yet ever so slowly the busy end of year activities distract us from Jesus and his birth. Thankfully our understanding of Jesus' birth isn't dependent on having 110% energy and enthusiasm for carols and Christmas!

As we've been seeing in Matthew's Gospel, the significance of Jesus' birth is explained in terms of the new development of God's sovereign plans. This year I have a deeper appreciation for Jesus' genealogy. And I hope you've come to appreciate all the suspense of the birth narrative. The legal implications of being betrothed give us a sense of the weight of Joseph's situation. Hearing of his betrothed's unexpected and shameful pregnancy, the challenge he faces to both care for her and keep the law, is thankfully resolved as God reveals his plans for the child.

Of course the joy of working through this Gospel is that we're reminded of the greatest significance of Jesus' birth: God saving people from their sin through the work of his King. Jesus' birth confirms God's plans for rescuing and restoring us were reaching fulfilment. God himself descended into the muckiness of life through Jesus, in order that through his death and resurrection we might be redeemed for eternity.

So, happy birthday Jesus! My prayer is that God might give you a deeper understanding of his grace to us in Jesus Christ this Christmas.

Mark Groombridge



Prayer Points

Sunday, Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Monday, O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, Amen

Tuesday, That we may create time and space in our busy lives to be open to God and reflect on His call to each one of us.

Wednesday, That we may be open in our lives to those things that set us apart from God and be ready to make changes.

Thursday, That we may be open to other people's needs, our neighbours, friends, family and also those we may pass by in our streets.

Friday, That our words, thoughts and actions may be kind and patient reflecting Christ's love at work in us.

Saturday, that we may all come to a deeper understanding of God's grace, .

Keeping in Contact

Senior Minister

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The Immanuel
Matthew 1:18-25; Isa 7:12-14; 9:1-7

How do you define 'god'?

The Immanuel (Isaiah 7:10-17; 9:1-7)

King Ahaz' folly and God's faithfulness (Isa 7:10-17)

God's promised son (Isa 9:1-7)

God's intervention in human history (Matt 1:22-23)

Fully God, Fully Man

John 1:14; 1 John 4:2

Philippians 2:6-11

The Immanuel Implications

1. God's love for humanity demonstrated
2. God's knowledge of temptation and death (Heb 2:17-18)
3. Humanity exalted
4. Relationship with God (Matt 28:20)

Notices

Christmas Services

Sunday Dec 24th
5pm at Portland
BBQ Church with carols

Monday Dec 25th
9am at Lithgow

January Services
9am at Lithgow
Followed by Bacon & Egg Rolls
5pm at Portland
BBQ Church

Connection Card



How to support our gospel ministries financially:

Account Name: ANGLICAN
PARISH OF LITHGOW
DIRECT GIVING

BSB: 062591

Account No.: 10085204

Or please use the offertory
box at the back of the
church.

Notices for Newsletter

Please send to office@lpachurch.org.au
by 4pm Thursday



