

AND GOD SAYS . . .

Sponsored by the Melrose Alliance Church

The popular Christmas carol says, “Joy to the world, the Lord is come...” This joy was our theme for the third Sunday of Advent. It is a fitting theme because the message of Christmas is a reason to rejoice. This message is the message of God intervening in the lives of mankind by sending His Son to become a man to save them from their sins. This is really a big deal. Those involved in the original story understood this.

When her relative, Mary, who was pregnant with the baby Jesus, entered her house, Elizabeth exclaimed, “as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy” (Luke 1:44). Elizabeth’s baby, who was to become John the Baptist, was a miracle baby in Elizabeth’s old age. He was the one sent from God to prepare the way for the Messiah. It seems his ministry began while he was still in the womb.

This is followed by Mary’s song, glorifying the Lord because “his mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation” (Luke 1:50).

After John the Baptist is born, his father, Zechariah, sings a song, prophesying about Jesus’s coming “to shine the light in the darkness and in the shadow of death” (Luke 1:79).

Lastly, an angel of the Lord appears to tell the shepherds that he brings them “good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-12). After this announcement the shepherds decided to go to Bethlehem to see the child. It was then that the star appeared. And when they “saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy” (Matthew 2:10).

Let’s see now, there is an old lady having a baby and this baby recognizes Jesus as the Messiah while both of the babies are still in the womb. We have Mary and Zechariah singing songs about the ministry of Mary’s son. And finally angels proclaim the message to shepherds. I wonder when this diverse group got together to fabricate such a silly story? On the other hand, maybe it is true. What do you think is most reasonable to believe? Personally I believe the witness and message are true and the greatest reasons to rejoice. So... Merry Christmas to you!