

A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

"Filled With Hope" 1/5/22

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Rm 15:13)

As you enter this new year, may the God of hope fill you with joy and peace in believing. These gifts, given to us at Christmas, with the coming of God's Son, Jesus the Christ, strengthens us through our days and years. They bolster us when we feel weak. They accompany us when we journey in the dark.

We've made new resolutions, we may have already broken some. We have decided to make this year better, healthier, our homes cleaner, our selves better informed. We'll do yoga every morning, meditate, make time for friends and time for God. Time for God. Maybe that should move to the head of this list, the rest will follow.

In the church calendar, tomorrow is Epiphany. In some countries it is celebrated with the same enthusiasm as Christmas. For many it's just January 6th. But it is the day the church celebrates the arrival of the Magi bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the babe who had been born in Bethlehem. This is the day Christ was manifested to the Gentiles, as represented by the Magi. As astronomers, they followed an unexpected and unequalled star. When they arrived at the place where it shone, they saw the Prince of Peace and they fell and worshipped Him. Their eyes saw and they knew this was Christ the King. This was more than the science of the heavens, this was more than philosophy, more than anything they had witnessed before.

Their eyes were opened and they saw the Word made flesh, the glory of a father's only son, one full of grace and truth, and they believed.

We, too, can see and believe. We can seek God and see God the Father in His Son. God's Word, laying in a manger, and given to us in the bread and wine. The light shines into our darkness, our confusion, our daily grind, and we see, we know, we chose to recognize the Son of God, now in flesh appearing. Let us resolve to make time for God. Let our eyes be opened - so we, too, will believe. For in believing, the God of hope fills us with joy and peace. amen

Please pray with me:

God of grace and mercy. Thank You for sending Your Son. Be with those who seek the One You have sent. Thank You for the gift of faith so when we seek, we find and believe. Go with us into this new year, a year full of promise as we walk closer with You. Come to us, so we will believe and abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

I bid you peace