

# A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

## "For Unto Us" 12/20/23

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt  
in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.*

*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given,  
and the government will be upon His shoulder.*

*And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:2,  
6)*

Strengthened in the dark with hope, at peace with the season, we find joy and share the love of God with others. During this season we are blessed by the light which was born unto us in God's Son. Jesus the Christ.

This season brings hope and bleakness, peace and frustration, joy and sorrow, love and anger. There is God's blessings of hope, peace, joy, found in His gift of love. We await the coming of the Messiah, the Son of God, He who is wonderful, who listens to us, who gives us wisdom, He who is forever and who is the Prince of Peace. Sunday, we celebrate His coming, by lighting the Christ candle.

Yet we let this season drive us crazy! When peace should reign, there is cleaning, baking, shopping, smiling, hosting, wrapping, writing cards, making out another check for our favorite non-prophet. There are gift exchanges, running around with fake smiles on our faces and in our hearts.

What are we doing? This is a time of love, from God to us and from us to others. Listen to the words of the carols, look at the smiles on the faces of young people, see the joy in their hearts. Is it a matter of slowing down or starting earlier? Or is it putting our attention on Christ, the gift of God? Putting Him first on our Christmas to-do list. Attending church, learning how to wait and prepare for the reason of the season, so we don't get lost on the bustling city sidewalks when it's Christmas time.

*What Child is This*, born in a cave in the *Little Town of Bethlehem* on a *Silent Night* to shine a light into our darkness? This, this is Christ the Lord, Jesus. Christ at His Birth. Emmanuel, God with us. Come to forgive sins and to break down the barriers which stand between us and God the Father. Come to bring us hope, peace and joy, wrapped in a mantle of love. Yes, breathe, this is Christmas, the most glorious time of the year.

## **Please pray with me:**

Thank you, Lord, for this time of waiting. Remove our anxiety and our impatience and help us to hold on to the hope we have in Your coming. We thank You for Your presence and for the peace it gives to us. Continue to fill us with Your joy as we wait. You bless us with Your love and it keeps us secure as we await Your arrival. May we focus on Your Son this Christmas and walk with You through the New Year.

**Amen.**

**Christmas Blessings**