



Emmanuel Newsletter
Sunday, January 3, 2021

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!

There were many things that happened over the past week or so – besides this very odd Christmas; some of them may not have been so pleasant. Family gatherings sometimes bring unanticipated stresses; disappointments long since forgotten raise their ugly heads. The problems of who goes where and why; and who gets left behind. This year there were fewer gatherings. We were supposed to stay “distant”. After Christmas, in my calls with friends and relations, I heard many stories of emotional pain and suffering. It seems, “out of sight, out of mind” kept many loved ones from doing the things normally expected of them. What has happened to us?

And I chose the Gospel according to Luke for our Dialogue Sermon. There are three gospels to choose from this Sunday: the story of Joseph fleeing to Egypt to avoid Herod; the oft celebrated story of the wise men and the story of Jesus preaching in the temple for the first time at 12 years old [Luke 2:41-52]. I chose the latter story from the Gospel of Luke. We could title the story, “Jesus goes missing!”

Those of us who have had children, and those of us who WERE children don’t have to look too far in our past to recognize this familiar problem of a ‘lost’ child. In fact, we have TV programs all about missing children. Abductions and kidnappings are unfortunately the stuff of everyday news.

We understand that Jesus is the Messiah. Yet Jesus leaves his parents to suffer the indignities of his disappearance. Was Jesus wrong to leave his parents without telling them? Is Joseph and Mary’s worrying a sign of their unfaithfulness? Shouldn’t they be exempt from this teenage rebellion?

This story magnifies the poignant truth of the Incarnation. God made man is as real as our struggles and joys, pain, and disappointment. Mary and Joseph simply had to live through their child’s reach for independence, and all that comes with it.

Happy New Year! May God give us hope in our hearts and joy in our step for a very healthy 2021,

The Rev. Dr. Joyce Caggiano

JOIN US Saturday, January 2, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. on Zoom for our service and dialogue sermon.



NOTE: LIVE ZOOM SERVICE IS AT 5:00 PM this Saturday, January 2, 2021.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97158695813?pwd=SXdVYIRGS0FtUEF6OUZaUWdWNEJMZz09>

Meeting ID: 971 5869 5813

Passcode: 528774

After 7:00 pm on Saturday, view the TAPED service anytime via our YouTube site:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEQm5KH2wGB_XbZ8h9jldhA

Have a comment? Email us at: info@emmanuelwr.org



Singing on Saturday, January 2, Virtual Coffee Hour

We sing informally during our Virtual Coffee Hour following our live Saturday Zoom service. It is not recorded. We invite you to stick around for the fun after the service.



Our Christmas Eve Zoom service was certainly different, but lovely just the same. The Liturgy and our Silent Night hymn brought home the true meaning of peace on earth. Thank you to all those who attended the service. It was wonderful seeing your faces and we pray for a joyous 2021!

Terri Halliday ran over to Emmanuel, lit candles, and took this picture of what one part of the church would have looked like had this been a typical Christmas Eve at church. Thank you, Terri!

