



THE VISION

December 2017

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them and...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...”

Amen. Matthew 28:19-20

Have you ever wondered what the Christmas word “Noel” means? The word “noel” is a French word for Christmas, derived from the Latin for Christ’s nativity. By common use it has become an alternate word for the gospel. In our Christmas songs it usually refers to the announcement of the angels to the shepherds of Bethlehem.

In 4-5 B.C. (the usually accepted dates for the birth of Jesus), the three largest settlements of Jewish people were found in Israel, Persia, and Egypt. God sent announcements to each of these descendants of Abraham.

The Shepherd’s Field near Bethlehem was once owned by David’s father, Jesse, and may have been where David wrote **Psalm 23**. Earlier, it had belonged to Boaz and was the field where Ruth gleaned. In fact, the rock overhang forming a shallow cave where shepherds kept their sheep may have been the threshing floor where Ruth slept at Boaz’ feet in Ruth, chapter 3.

According to the Jewish Mishna, that field was later dedicated for Temple use to raise sheep for sacrifice or Passover. Yet, the shepherds who raised those sheep were considered outcasts because they chose a vocation that required working on the Sabbath. To these “untouchables” God sent an angelic host to

announce the coming of the Good Shepherd.

The second largest contingent of Jews was in Persia where many chose to remain after the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities. Jewish priests there, called Magi in the Persian tongue, would know of Balaam’s prediction in **Numbers 24:17**. Upon seeing a brilliant supernova they chose, on their own, to lead a caravan to Jerusalem to find the prophesied King of the Jews. They did not follow the star across the desert because the star would not have led them to Herod!

Disappointed at not finding a baby in Herod’s palace, **Matthew 2:10** says they rejoiced when they saw their star again, this time leading them the 6 miles to Bethlehem. That night, when Joseph fled with his family to Egypt, he joined the third largest settlement of Jews. There, Joseph told everyone that Mary’s son was the Jewish Messiah.

The Coptic Christian Church of Egypt traces its beginning to Joseph who told them about Jesus. Thus, God was letting all of Abraham’s descendants know the fulfillment of His announcement, His “Noel” to their forefathers. Jesus Christ is God the Father’s good new announcement, Noel!

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Bud Goude



PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 804-642-2555 IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES OR BY EMAIL: secretary@glotbaptist.org

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Have A Very Merry Christmas





Deacon's Devotional

Praying for the Lost

Interceding for the lost is such a needed ministry. As believers, we realize that we once walked in darkness, but now we walk in the wonderful light of God's love through Jesus Christ, His Son. We were once in bondage to sin, but thanks be to God, He has set us free, and we are heaven-bound! The Holy Spirit lives in us, and we have His love, joy, peace, faith, hope, righteousness, strength, and so much more. He is at work in us, always inspiring us to grow closer to Jesus and become more like Him.

Because God has put His love in us, we are concerned about our family members, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc., who don't yet know the Lord. We so much want them to become part of God's forever family. In studying, I discovered some Scriptural ways to pray for the lost.

Pray that God:

- ◆ will give them a heart to know Him. **Jeremiah 24:7**
- ◆ will incline their hearts unto Him. **I Kings 8:58**
- ◆ would grant them repentance to acknowledge the truth. **II Timothy 2:25**
- ◆ would open their hearts to believe the Gospel. **Acts 16:14**
- ◆ would remove Satan's blinding influence. **II Corinthians 4:4**

James 5:16 says, *"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."* With God's help, let us pray with regularity for the lost people we know. In the end, we know that God won't force anyone to believe and receive His gift of salvation, but He is *"not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."* **II Peter 3:9**

Our Lord will do everything He can to draw the lost unto Himself. He enlists us, who already know Him, to labor together with Him on their behalf. Let's not give up!

—David Crummett, Deacon



Christmas Doves

"...and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove..." Matthew 3:16

Would you like to place a Dove on the tree in memory or in honor of a loved one? A dove can be placed for a minimum of a \$5.00 donation, but more will gladly be accepted. Donations will go to support benevolence. The deadline is Wednesday 12/20 and doves will be placed on the tree as donations are received.

A dove contributors list will be included in the Christmas bulletin. Place your form and payment in the labeled box in the Narthex. Contact Paulette Ashe at 642-3251 if any questions. Thank you for your generosity!





Deacon of the Week

12/3—Sonya Anthony
12/10—Gary Mangrum
12/17—Amy Boykin
12/24—Al West
12/31—David Crummett

Nursery Workers

12/3—Beverly West
12/10—Pauline Littell
12/17—Maribel Loveland
12/24—Devon Willard
12/31—OPEN

December Ushers

Sonya Anthony
Stan Gandee
Seth Gandee
Jamie Moore

December Tellers

Buddy Hogge
Ted Fisher

Sun. Sch. Nursery
Sharon/Howard Warren



**CHURCH
WORKERS**

Older Children's Church

12/3—Sarah Saunders
12/10—Jennifer/Derick Hall
12/17—Madison/Seth Gandee
12/24—Charlene/John West
12/31—Seth Gandee

Younger Children's Church

12/3—Tracy Williams
12/10—Sonya Anthony/Nancy Dyson
12/17—Denise Gandee/Mallory Wagner
12/24—Laraine Sentz/Rachel Wells
12/31—Tammy Greggs



Christmas Cantata and Dinner

Please make plans to join us
Sunday, December 17th at 11am
as our chancel choir presents our annual
Christmas Cantata. All are invited to worship
and celebrate with us!

The Annual Christmas Dinner will follow the
Cantata. The menu will be roast beef, gravy,
bread, and beverage provided. Please bring
a salad, vegetable, or dessert (enough to
share with 10-12 people) and, of course,
your family and friends!



Christmas Eve Service

Invite your family and friends to join us for a beautiful candlelight
Christmas Eve Service at 5:00pm.

There will be Christmas music, scriptures ,and the Lord's Supper.

