

# **BETWEEN SEEDTIME AND HARVEST**

**Senior Adults Newsletter  
Christ Covenant Church  
January 2021**



## **GRACE TO YOU**

by

**Pastor Bruce Creswell**

### ***Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus***

There are many carols that we love to sing and reflect upon over the Christmas season. We each have our favorites and we sing them with enthusiasm. Recently, we have sung a carol twice in our Advent worship and it is becoming a favorite of mine, ***Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus***. It focuses on the “long-expected Jesus” who was born to set us free from sin and to bring us salvation by His death.

The prophet Isaiah wrote 700 years before the birth of Christ, “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” Generations have come and gone expecting the arrival of the promised Messiah. Each generation was hopeful that He would come in their lifetime.

Then 300 years later, the prophet Malachi predicted the coming of the Lord, and the ministry of John the Baptist announced His appearing. In Malachi 3:1, we read, “Behold, I will send My Messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight.”

The book of Malachi closes the Old Testament. When we turn to the opening book of the New Testament, Matthew, it is 400 years later. The time between Malachi and Matthew is referred to as the “Four Hundred Silent Years.” During this time there was no Divine revelation, only Divine silence. Year after year the people of Israel waited and longed for His coming, only to be disappointed. Again, generations came and passed.

The silence was finally broken with the angelic visitation of Gabriel to Zacharias, the priest. He was informed that he would have a son, as Malachi predicted, who would “go before Him” and “make ready a people prepared for the Lord” (Luke 1:17).

Again, the angel Gabriel, six months later, appeared to a young virgin, as predicted by Isaiah, and told her of the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit; she would give birth to the Messiah—to be called Jesus (Luke 1:31-35).

And so the joyful news of His birth was announced “There is born to you this day in the city of David, a Savior, Christ the Lord!” followed by the heavenly host praising and saying, “Glory to God in the highest!”

Charles Wesley captures this on a personal level in his short hymn, *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*”.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

*Come, thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set thy people free  
From our fears and sins release us  
Let us find our rest in thee  
Israel's strength and consolation  
Hope of all the earth thou art  
Dear desire of every nation  
Joy of every longing heart*

*Born thy people to deliver  
Born a child and yet a king  
Born to reign in us forever  
Now thy gracious kingdom bring  
By thine own eternal spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone  
By thine own sufficient merit  
Raise us to thy glorious throne*

The hymn expresses the desire of every needy sinner that Christ would enter his life to bring eternal salvation and indeed be the true "joy of every longing heart."

In light of His promised second coming, generations have also come and gone. I have known saints who believed they would bypass the under-taker; who, in their words, were looking for "the Upper-taker." Over many years, I have been in prayer meetings with many saints as well as with one or two crying out and pleading the promises for His return. We will soon celebrate Christmas looking back on His first coming, followed by the arrival of a New Year. This maybe the year of His return. So, let us wait, and let us look, and let us be ready for His return and for His kingdom to come. Let us sing in praise and in prayer, ***Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus!***

### HYMN HISTORY

*Submitted by Peggy Dear*

### O WORD OF GOD INCARNATE

There was a down-to-earth simplicity about William Walsham How. He confessed that he was not a good student in college. Science, he said, baffled him. But he went on to become a minister. He served a rural congregation on the Welsh border for twenty-eight years and then ministered in the slums of London's East End, serving ordinary folk. William How became known as the "Poor Man's Bishop." His ambition in life, he said, was not "to be remembered, but to be helpful."

He loved children and wrote hymns for them. One of these hymns began like this: "It is a thing most wonderful, almost too wonderful to be, that God's own son should come from heaven, and die to save a child like me."

William How also loved the Bible. On his symbolic pastoral staff, he engraved the words, "Feed with the Word, feed with the Life." So it is not surprising that he should write a hymn that combines praise to the written Word of God with praise to the Incarnate Word of God.

Scriptures: Psalm 119:33-37; John1:1-14; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:  
We praise Thee for the radiance that from the  
hallowed page,  
A lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

The Church from Thee, her Master, received the gift  
divine,  
And still that light she lifteth o'er all the earth to shine,  
It is the sacred casket where gems of truth are stored;  
It is the heaven-drawn picture of Thee, the living Word.

It floateth like a banner before God's host unfurled;  
It shineth like a beacon above the darkling world.  
It is the chart and compass that o'er life's surging sea,  
Mid mists and rocks and quicksands, still guides, O  
Christ, to Thee.

O make Thy Church, dear Savior, a lamp of purest gold,  
To bear before the nations Thy true light as of old.  
O teach Thy wandering pilgrims by this their path to  
trace,  
Till, clouds and darkness ended, they see Thee face to  
face.

*William Walsham How (1823-1897)*

## A GLIMPSE OF ETERNITY

by Angela Pacey

I was assigned two tables to serve at the Christmas Dinner. One of my tables was comprised of three couples. They all met at Belhaven College, Jackson MS, over 50 years ago. After graduation, each went their separate ways spreading across the nation. Through marriage, job transfers, etc., all three couples ended up in Charlotte and at Christ Covenant Church.

They have since discovered that their lives and the lives of their families have so many things in common and have crossed paths in multiple ways, most of which they were not even aware of until they came together as members of the Senior's community here at CCC.

I just think this is a great story of how we are united as Christians without regard to state borders or life circumstances. For me, this is a glimpse of what eternity will be like.



Pictured left to right: Lanier & Karen Ellis, Mo & Janie Up de Graff, Dave & Lynn McArthur

### STILL CLOSED DOWN!

The Senior Men's monthly lunch will peacefully hibernate through January; whilst, in the Providence of God, vaccines and other factors may wrestle us "OPEN" for February 18<sup>th</sup>.

### NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

Articles for the February newsletter are due to Jane Yancey no later than December 20<sup>th</sup>. Please send them to her at [jane@yancey.com](mailto:jane@yancey.com)



## Senior Adult Luncheon

Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Social time 11:45 am

Lunch 12:00 pm

Lower CLC Youth Space

Speaker: TBA

Our luncheon will be the third Friday in January to allow more time between the holidays and the luncheon. The menu is lasagna, salad, bread, and desserts. Both auditoriums in the lower CLC will be used for seating, with 30 people per room to ensure proper spacing.

To reserve your spot, RSVP by January 8<sup>th</sup>, on the SignUp Genius link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0444aaaf2ea2fc1-january> or directly to Jenny Blackmon, ministry administrator, at 704-708-6115. A \$3 donation per person to cover food costs is appreciated.



## Thursday School- Winter/Spring Session

*Walking in the Land of the Bible-Creating a Mental Map for Bible Reading*

Paul Engle will be teaching **the second semester of Thursday School from January 7 to June 24, 2021**. Thursday School will *not* meet Holy Week (April 1) or June 17 (Seek the City).

Paul will be referencing the optional *ESV Concise Bible Atlas* by David P. Barrett. Thirty of these have been purchased and will be available at the first Thursday School in January. Cost per atlas is \$11.69. Please make checks out to Christ Covenant Church. Lucille Ruths is handling payment collection and atlas distribution. Atlases are also available online at a variety of sites if you would like to purchase on your own and have it shipped directly to your house.

Please sign up for the weeks you plan to attend *and cancel* your registration if you cannot make it. This allows us to accurately prepare enough materials for the class and ensure we are within COVID guidelines. Please contact Jenny Blackmon, ministry administrator, if you would like her to make your reservation for you (704-708-6104) or use the SignUp Genius link. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0444AAAF2EA2FC1-senior2>



### **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 – Eric Moore
- 2 – Becky Hargett
- 8 – Sylvia Walls
- 9 – Willene Addington
- 9 – Leslie Allison
- 9 – Fred Depp
- 9 – Annie Melton
- 9 – Bud Speck
- 11 – Peggy Elkin
- 11 – Tom Walls
- 12 – Barbara Price
- 14 – Jameson Barlaan
- 14 – Jerry Cauble
- 15 – Anne Murray
- 16 – Jane Gissendanner
- 17 – Donna Whitehead
- 17 – Jane Williams
- 18 – Mo Up De Graff
- 19 – Judy Moore
- 20 – Dottie Toney
- 21 – Sam Murray
- 23 – Lisa Kelly
- 26 – Mary Jo Culver
- 29 – Dot Branson
- 29 – Jim Parrish, Jr.



### **JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 2 – Jim and Kass Goebel
- 4 – Rick and Cameron Ely
- 10 – Al and Peggy Elkin
- 20 – Hugh and Fran Wise
- 20 – Cal and Elaine Deaner

**Coram Deo Sunday School Class:**

Sundays: 9:00 AM, WC 201 (Choir Room)

**Pastor on Call:** (704) 708-6101**Pastor of Senior Adults and Visitation:**

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**JUST ONE REQUEST**

Author Unknown

Dear Master for this coming year  
 Just one request I bring:  
 I do not pray for happiness,  
 Or any earthly thing—  
 I do not ask to understand  
 The way Thou leadest me,  
 But this I ask: Teach me to do  
 The thing that pleaseth Thee.  
 I want to know Thy guiding voice,  
 To walk with Thee each day.  
 Dear Master make me swift to hear  
 And ready to obey.  
 And thus the year I now begin  
 A happy year will be—  
 If I am seeking just to do  
 The thing that pleaseth Thee.

**ANOTHER YEAR IS DAWNING***By Francis Ridley Havergal (1874)*

Another year is dawning,  
 Dear Master, let it be,  
 In working, or in waiting,  
 Another year with Thee.  
 Another year of mercies,  
 Of faithfulness and grace;  
 Another year of gladness  
 In the shining of Thy face.  
 Another year of progress,  
 Another year of praise,  
 Another year of proving  
 Thy presence all the days.  
 Another year of service,  
 Of witness of Thy love,  
 Another year of training  
 For holier work above.  
 Another year is dawning,  
 Dear Master, let it be  
 On earth, or else in heaven  
 Another year for Thee.