

WHO WILL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS?

By showing mercy to people, we entertain God.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ Hebrews 13:2 says, “Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.”
- ❖ Jesus further confirms this, saying in Matthew 25:40, “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”
- ❖ Scripture makes it clear—when we extend mercy to people, we extend mercy to God Himself.
Joseph came from royal heritage, but lived in a humble place.
- ❖ Joseph’s journey began in the town of Nazareth in Galilee, a town of no status or prophetic reputation, which is why Nathanael later asked the question, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” (John 1:46).
- ❖ Yet Isaiah 9:1-2 had already declared that God would honour Galilee and that a great light would shine there.
- ❖ What appeared insignificant carried hidden purpose.
- ❖ Joseph travelled to Bethlehem, the town tied to his ancestry in the line of David. It represented promise, identity, and calling.
- ❖ Though he lived humbly, Joseph’s roots were royal. His greatness was not visible outwardly but grounded in God’s long-standing promise.
- ❖ This mirrors the spiritual gift of mercy: people may appear ordinary, dressed in simplicity, yet they bear God’s image.
- ❖ Their significance lies not in outward appearance but in who they were created to be.
- ❖ Mercy sees beyond the surface and honours the divine identity within every person.
God in His sovereignty positioned Joseph and Mary for the Messiah’s birth.
- ❖ Luke records that “in those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world” (Luke 2:1).
- ❖ What looked like a political decision was actually divine orchestration.
- ❖ Everyone had to travel to their hometowns, which compelled Joseph to go to Bethlehem.
- ❖ God used an earthly ruler—even an adversarial one—to set His prophetic plan in motion, fulfilling Micah 5:2: “But you, Bethlehem...out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people, Israel.”
- ❖ Mary, who was engaged to Joseph, was also descended from David, but the child she carried had been conceived miraculously when the Holy Spirit “overshadowed” her (Lk. 1:35).
- ❖ Joseph’s lineage determined their registration, placing them exactly where God intended at the exact moment He ordained.
- ❖ Sovereignty guided every detail.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:4-7
(all scripture in NIV unless otherwise noted)

- ❖ In the same way, the gift of mercy grows where there is trust in God’s sovereignty.
- ❖ When people believe God is at work, even in uncomfortable or uncertain situations, they offer mercy freely—not for personal gain, but because they trust God’s purpose.
Someone who showed mercy entertained God without knowing.
- ❖ Luke writes that while Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, “the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son” (Lk. 2:6-7).
- ❖ Mary wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger—a simple feeding trough—because “there was no guest room available for them” (Lk. 2:7).
- ❖ Someone saw their condition and offered the only space they had left.
- ❖ It wasn’t a room; it wasn’t comfortable, and it wasn’t what anyone would have chosen.
- ❖ But it was mercy. And that small act became the place where God entered the world.
- ❖ This Christmas season, show mercy—not because it will be returned, but because someone needs it.
- ❖ God dwells in His people, and when mercy is extended to them, it honours Him
- ❖ Joseph and Mary’s journey shows that God works through ordinary places, humble people, and simple acts of mercy.
- ❖ What seems small becomes significant in God’s hands.
- ❖ When mercy is shown, God is honoured. And when God positions people for His purpose, nothing can disrupt what He intends to accomplish.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. The stable wasn’t extravagant, but it was “mercy”. What does this teach us about how even small acts of kindness can create space for God to move?
2. Luke 2:4-7 describes Jesus being born in a manger because there was no room in the inn. What does this reveal about how God often works through unexpected or overlooked spaces?
3. Mercy recognizes the image of God in others. How does perceiving people as being made in God’s image change the way we respond to those in need?

PRAYER TIME

Lord, open our eyes to see people the way You see them, and move our hearts to respond with mercy. Amen.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) ☁️ (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: What’s one moment this year when someone’s kindness made you feel seen, and why did it matter?

PRAYER FOCUS: Salvation for our unsaved family and friends.

24-hour Prayer: Daily;

Daily Devotions: Monday - Friday @ 6:30 a.m. & 9:00 p.m.;

Departmental Prayer: Every Thursday (please check schedule)

Corporate Prayer: Every Friday @ 7:00 p.m. (and in person every second Friday @ 9:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m.).

Zoom ID: 898 3191 5909 **Phone Access:** 647-374-4685

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give
For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com



ANNOUNCEMENTS



FS PRAYER HOSTS AND LEADERS

There will be another prayer leaders, prayer hosts & co-host training session via the FS "Departmental Meetings" zoom link on www.faithsanctuary.com.

Date: Sunday, December 7th, 2025

Time: 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Contact: Bro. Mike Allen

2025 CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

This Christmas, we're inviting everyone in our church family of all ages, all backgrounds, and all languages to be part of a special video celebrating the theme "Believe Again." Whether you come as a family, with friends, or on your own, we'd love for you to share a moment of joy, a smile, or a simple expression of what Christmas means to you.

Come be part of something beautiful as we capture the heart of Christmas together.

Let's remind our world to Believe Again.

Contact: Sis. Andrea Peel

PRODIGAL SONS & DAUGHTERS' PRAYER

Please join us as we pray for our sons and daughters.

Date/Time: Every Sunday @ 1:15 p.m.

Location: Prayer Room

Contact: Sis. Suzanne Allen

FAITH SANCTUARY WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service @ 11:00 a.m.

(Listen via phone: 1-844-268-4848)

Monday Berean Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m.

(Zoom, Facebook, YouTube)

Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.

(In person and via Zoom)

Friday Evening Service @ 8:00 p.m.

(In person and via Zoom)

Life Group Meetings – individually scheduled
(see ushers for information)

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

DECEMBER 7, 2025



Feed Canada to Feed the World

Building People, Building Resources

~ 2025 ~

Pastor:
Rev. Adrian W. Peel

*"Be merciful,
just as your Father is
merciful."*

Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

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