



Christ Has Come!

“So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.”
(Luke 2:16)

The angels had come to the shepherds with the news the people had been waiting for; the Messiah had come! The shepherds were the first to hear of it, and they dropped everything to go and see. They did not understand the full impact of the angel’s message. They could not explain what happened, or see what would come next, but they believed and they spread the news to everyone they met. The shepherds, like the people they told their news to, did not realize what the baby in the manger really meant. Their expectations of the ‘Messiah’ were not in line with what God had in mind! The people wanted someone who would free them from the Romans. They wanted a leader who would be more like a modern super hero than like a servant who took on all the least glamorous and most disagreeable tasks required to care for the needy, the sick, and the lost. They wanted wiz-bang and pizazz not selfless service and sacrifice offered peacefully, quietly and without fan-fair. The message Jesus came to bring was more earthshaking and life changing than people realized or were able to accept then and now because it is not about personal achievement, gratification, or glorification. It is the willingness to be last not first. It is putting yourself in the shoes of the least among us and taking the lowliest place so others may stand tall and share in the bounty of God’s love for all his people. It is to lie in a manger not a mansion and be filled to overflowing with the joy of God’s love and peace!

Recapture the true meaning of the coming of that first Christmas baby. Remember the words of the first to announce his birth and renew your resolve to live out his true calling. Glory to God in the highest! Peace on earth and good will to all!

This week, in your prayer time remember:

- Those who do not know God’s peace
- Shooting victims
- Those who are homeless
- Those who are fleeing violence and poverty
- Those who are struggling to find or hang on to hope
- Those who have endured great suffering



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