

Dear Friends,

As we enter the Advent season, we begin our yearly ritual of remembering and celebrating Jesus' birth into this world. As children, this annual season carries with it not only the mystery of our faith, but also the anticipation and magic of other traditions that we mix into our Christmas celebrations. For most of us, an unfortunate consequence of growing older, feeling the repetition of numerous years, seeing consumerism grow within the holiday, and understanding that some traditions aren't real, is that a significant part of the magic and even the anticipation of Christmas wears off.

Yet, we continue to celebrate Jesus' birth so that the story, the history and the belief continue within our world. There is also deeper theological significance for remembering Christ's birthday. I believe that one of the theological reasons for Christmas is to give voice to the daily ways that God is doing new things in each of our lives.

The birth of the Messiah represents an act of God, one of the most profound actions that God has taken, according to our knowledge. However, when we consider what exactly happened in that Christmas moment, it is actually a very mundane and normal occurrence; a child was born. In our current world, there are something like 258 children born every minute, or around 4 babies per second.

If one of the most significant actions of God took the form of a very common event, how many other instances in our lives are we overlooking where God is active? I believe that the Holy Spirit is consistently birthing new life into our world; small, ordinary miracles on a daily, perhaps hourly, perhaps moment by moment basis; we just don't have the eyes to see it. A consequence of living in this world is having its earthiness, its muddiness, its sin stain and cover us. The longer we live, the more this earth has the potential to blur our vision, preventing us from seeing the true nature of what is happening all around us. Celebrating the birth of the Christ child is an opportunity to attempt to wash our eyes clean, to take a fresh look at what has happened and what is still going on in our world: new life, new creation, new miracles, new acts of God. May this Christmas bless you, wash over you and restore your vision.

WCPC Outdoors Ministry – Colorado – Sept. 2019

Strap on your boots and grab your hat as we will be discovering how much of Jesus' teaching and discipleship occurs in the great outdoors! As we seek to escape the confines of an 'inward' and 'indoors' society we will be exploring how wild places can become our sanctuary and classroom. Our end goal is to build relationships through trust and commitment to Jesus and to embrace outdoors adventure and challenges along the way. We are planning another mountaintop experience with our ministry partners at SKY Ranch Ute Trail, CO during September 2019. In addition to another "Man-Camp" week, we are exploring the possibility of a co-ed week for men and women, pending interest levels. Please join us on December 10th at 7:00pm in the church parlor/library if you want to learn more.

Blessings!
Rev. Tyler Pettigrew