

“The Lord is Come!”

December 10, 2017 - Christmas Pageant Sunday

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Luke 2:14

In a world of like ours, filled with anxiety and stress, joy is one of the most important medicines for our spirit.

Let's see what the Bible says about Joy.

- “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” Galatians 5:22-23a
- “A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.” Proverbs 17:22
- “For the kingdom of God is ... righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” Romans 14:17

On the first Christmas night, this joy was proclaimed by the angels to the shepherds, and today is proclaimed to us. Today, our Lord is here to bring joy into our lives, a joy that is authentic and enduring. The source of this joy is that Jesus Christ was born, He became a human being, and that means that God is with us.

God is here to present to us, through our children, the source of joy. In the Christmas pageant, our children will present to us the source of eternal joy, and will help us to see it as the shepherds saw on that night. The deepest joy of our lives is that God not only accepts us, but also we are loved by Him. Joy and love are the gifts of God.

On Christmas Eve, the angel proclaims peace and joy to those who were favoured by God. You have to know and feel that YOU are favoured by God because He loves you, and this knowledge has to create real joy in your heart, which will be with you forever.

I am sure, today, we will have joy and maybe our young “actors” will create a great atmosphere, like that little girl who once played the part of the Bethlehem innkeeper. She was very sorry that Mary was not well received in the story. For this, in the play, she went off script and announced to Joseph and Mary and to the audience that today the situation is different: there was room for them in that 5 star hotel.

I heard about a lovely scene, where 5 little angels were standing around baby Jesus in his bed. Again, off the script, all five angels suddenly started fighting over who would hold the baby Jesus. They took Him out from the cradle and started pulling Him back and forth until the little doll fell apart. Can you imagine these little angels arguing and fighting over baby Jesus?

Once, in a scene, Mary and Joseph were played by twins. As they surrounded the cradle, Joseph wanted to hold Mary's hands. But she raised her voice, saying, "Today, you did not want to share your candy with me so stop holding my hands!"

At another Christmas pageant, the children were playing and copying some animals. These enthusiastic kids were dressed like a blue bird, a goat, a dog and a cow. They all tried to give a gift to little Jesus. A little guy, Johnny, did not show up for rehearsals, but he arrived to the church when the pageant was on. The youth leader placed him between the children, who were dressed like animals. "Be quiet, Johnny," she said as she attached a big tail and two big ears on Johnny.

As the children sat on the steps in front of the congregation, the little bird said: "I will sing to baby Jesus." The goat said: "I will give Jesus some cheese." The horse offered a horse ride in the snow, the duck feathers for his pillow, and the rabbit his fur. Then, suddenly Johnny stood up, shouting: "I will teach Jesus to laugh."

The wise men came in. One of them was very gentle and polite, and decided to do a little bit more than was in his role. He was knocking and asking if it is not too late or early to come in. Joseph shouted: "Come on in guys and let's have a party."

"This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalm 118:24