COMPASSION FUND

Crosswalk has established a fund to help those within our church with food cards, and other miscellaneous items. Donations can be designated to the Compassion Fund with a check, cash, or online giving.



Scan the QR code below to visit our website





Crosswalk Community Church presents

# **BETHLEHEM A.D. 22**

Sunday, December 11, 2022



Thank you to all the Crosswalkers who donated over 50 gifts and gift cards for our Help One Child Giving Tree this year!

This afternoon from 1:00-3:00pm we are welcoming local foster parents to choose gifts for their children. There will be a gift wrapping station available, refreshments, and volunteers wearing festive Santa hats!

Stop by if you're in the neighborhood and join the party!



Shine the lig

On Christmas Eve, we will be lining the front of the church with luminaries in order to shine the light of Jesus into our neighborhood. Please join us in supporting this project by doing the following:

- Bring clear glass or plastic recyclables to church
- Help insert lights into containers each week after the church service
- Join the Shine the Light team on Christmas Eve to help with setup
- Take luminaries with you as you leave the Christmas Eve service to share with friends, family, neighbors, and shut ins.

# Journey Notes

The words we use to describe Christmas are a telling indication of what Christmas actually means. We use words like merry, dashing, jolly, yuletide, holy, festive, and of course, joyful. What is it about Christmas that tilts us to these words? I believe Christmas is a time when our hearts instinctively know to reach for something we're made for: joy.

This year, as we imagine yet again what Christmas brings, let us not ignore the incline in us to believe in it, seek it and be surprised by it. Joy is God's gift to us. Just listen to your heart's song—it is telling you something; you were made for joy.

But many have all but given up on joy. Life has taught them not to expect much. But to give up on joy is to give up on God. God actually wants you to be joyful. Over and over again, His Words commands us to be joyful (Ps. 2:11, 33:1; Isa. 65:18; Joel 2:21, Zeph. 3:19; Matt. 5:12, Phil. 44).

But how are we to experience this joy?

(1) Take time to be with Jesus, the creator of joy.

(2) Take time to separate yourself from anything that is not based in God.
Walk away from worldly longings that wage war against the soul (1Pet. 2:11).
(3) Take time to give away something that is dear to you. I mean be generous.
One of the biggest keys to joy is generosity.

When you allow yourself to be in the presence of Jesus, to walk away from sin, and give generously, your soul will steer itself toward joy.

Praying His joy over us, Pastor Briant



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## Matthew 1:18-23

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us).

#### Sermon Notes

(1) God disrupted human history to bring us joy. (v. 18-20)

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