



WHEN GOD BECAME FLESH

MATTHEW 1:18-23



Message Guide | December 12, 2021

WHEN GOD BECAME FLESH

MATTHEW 1:18-23

TODAY'S MESSAGE | DECEMBER 12, 2021

We take time off from our Ephesians Book Study, this December, to focus on the meaning of Christ's incarnation for our church family – what the world celebrates as “Christmas.”

In order for us to fully appreciate the implications of God breaking into our world, let us look at a familiar and well-loved story from another angle:

1. The Miraculous Conception of Jesus

“...before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 1:18)

“...that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 1:20)

- In the genealogy of Matthew 1:1-17, Joseph is never called “the father of Jesus.” He is simply called “the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ” (Matthew 1:16). This emphasizes that Jesus was born from a human mother but not a human father. Galatians 4:4 says, “When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law.” Again, no human father is mentioned.
- To make atonement for our sins, Jesus had to be fully man
To have the authority to forgive sin and conquer death,
He had to be fully God. The miraculous conception is how God accomplished all of these through Jesus Christ.

2. The Missional Calling of Jesus

“...you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21)

- The name “Jesus” (Matthew 1:21), a Greek form of the Hebrew name “Joshua,” means “salvation is of God.” His Name reveals the redemptive nature of His ministry – to “save His people from their sins.”
- God is a missional God. The Father sent the Son (1 John 4:9-10), whose life, death, and resurrection is our message (1 Corinthians 15:1-5). The Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit (John 14:16, 26; John 15:26). The Son sent us, the church, empowered by the Spirit, to the nations (Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8; John 20:21).

WHEN GOD BECAME FLESH

MATTHEW 1:18-23

TODAY'S MESSAGE | DECEMBER 12, 2021

3. The Majestic Character of Jesus

“...and they shall call His name Immanuel.” (which means, God with us)
(Matthew 1:23)

- “Immanuel” reveals who the Lord Jesus is, His fully divine and majestic nature. “God with us” means He is here to lead and guide us, but also to rule and judge the earth in His appointed time.
- In Jesus, nobody less than God came right where we are. And at the end of Matthew’s Gospel, there is the promise that Jesus will be with us to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20) – God with us indeed!

FINAL THOUGHTS

Christmas reveals these important truths about Jesus – His Conception, Calling, and Character. Christmas isn’t just a fun event (it is). Nor is it just a most awaited annual distraction (it can be). It is also a deeply theological and profoundly doctrinal event that every Christian should know. Right behavior is founded on right doctrine. We do what we believe, so we must believe rightly. May this lead us all to glad worship and joyful service! ■



MERRY
CHRISTMAS
EVERYONE!

Download the study guide: bit.ly/GCFStudyGuides



The Shepherd's Voice

by Pastor Jojun Loanzon



THE CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Philippines has one of the longest celebrations of Christmas. We hear Christmas caroles in malls as early as September. Christmas décor begin to be displayed. This year was no exception, pandemic and all. Set aside the commercialism and the glitter for a moment. You will find that the heart of Christmas, is the incarnation of the Word, Creator God Himself.

The Bible tells us: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth... For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. (John 1:1-3,14,16)

About 700 years before Jesus Christ, the prophet Isaiah prophesied “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

This Christmas in the midst of heart wrenching losses, brokenness and hopelessness, we put our faith in the One in whom we have received grace upon grace. In these turbulent times, we put our hope in the One who calmed the storm with the command “Peace. Be still. (Mark 4:39).” The One who said “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. (John 14:27) “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

A whole day celebration awaits us on December 19. Join us for the “The Gracious Gift of the Prince of Peace: The GCF Christmas Special 2021”. Here is our Schedule of Events for December 19.

9:00 AM KidsLIFE Christmas Episode
(on GCF Facebook and YouTube)

9:30 AM Special Christmas Worship Service
(Live on-site and on GCF Facebook and YouTube)

1:00 PM Christmas Family Fellowship (via Zoom)

3:00 PM Family Hymn Sing
(Live on-site and on GCF Facebook and YouTube)

Invite your loved ones to join us this coming Sunday!

Save the date: December 19

The Gracious Gift of the Prince of Peace: The GCF Christmas Special 2021

From the Loanzon Family to yours, Merry Christmas! ■



WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING



Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

If you are led to give, you may do so through the following means:

Account Name: Greenhills Christian Fellowship, Inc.

BDO

BDO Corporate Center
Savings Account: **000661590216**

METROBANK

Ortigas Sapphire
Savings Account: **629-3-62919733-9**

CHINA BANK

Ortigas ADB
Savings Account: **1112-02006218**

BPI

Ortigas Emerald
Peso Savings Account: **9823 0217 01**

UNIONBANK

UB Plaza
Checking Account: **0005-9001-0426**

ROBINSONS BANK

Main Office
Savings Account: **1000-3010-0017-355**

PAYPAL

Please visit **gcf.org.ph/give**

Scan QR code below:

GCASH



PAYMAYA



Send a copy of your transaction document to **finance@gcf.org.ph** so your giving can be properly recorded and an official receipt can be sent to you.

GCF BAYANIHAN FOOD STALLS

The GCF Mercy Ministry continues to accept donations, here’s how:

For In-Kind Donations: drop off at the GCF Lobby from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

For Cash Donations: give via the GCF bank accounts (gcf.org.ph/give).

Email your deposit slip to finance@gcf.org.ph with the subject “*For Bayanihan Food Stall*”.

For questions, contact the Mercy Ministry at 0917 532 7672 or mercy@gcf.org.ph

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE EFFORTS

You may also give to support the church family’s COVID relief efforts.

Just indicate “**For COVID-19 Fund**”when you email your transaction document.



CHURCH UPDATES



WORSHIP THE LORD WITH US ON-SITE!

10:00 AM Worship Service | 3:00 PM Worship Service
Present your vaccination card as you enter the building.

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION

Available to all worship services

REMINDERS OF GOD'S CARE AND FAITHFULNESS DEVOTIONALS

Tuesdays | 8:00 p.m. | Livestream on GCF YouTube and Facebook

THE GCF FAMILY'S HOUR OF PRAYER

Thursdays | 8:00 p.m. | via Zoom

KidsLIFE ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Saturdays | Little Ones - 10:00 a.m. | Growing Kids - 10:15 a.m.
Livestream on GCF YouTube and Facebook

LIVEstream (YouthLIVE Worship)

Saturdays | 5:00 p.m. | Livestream on GCF YouTube and Facebook

FAMILY GGEX (GROWTH GROUP EXPRESS)

Every Sunday Morning | 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 nn
GGEx Leader: Pastor Emerson Manaloto | Zoom: bit.ly/FamilyGGEx
Passcode: familyGGEx | For Inquiries, contact Marj at 0917-779-1549

TELECONSULTATION SERVICE

For appointments or questions, contact:
gcfocstef@gmail.com (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 nn) | gcfocluan@gmail.com (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.)

ANNUAL GCF FAMILY CONFERENCE (OPEN TO ALL GCF MEMBERS)

December 12 (Sunday) | 1:30 p.m. via Zoom
Zoom Meeting details will be sent to GCF members via email
For inquiries, email churchadmin@gcf.org.ph

THE GRACIOUS GIFT OF THE PRINCE OF PEACE - CHRISTMAS SPECIAL 2021

December 19 (Sunday) | Live on-site and online on GCF YouTube and Facebook

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Message us your prayer requests at:
Facebook: Greenhills Christian Fellowship | E-mail: pray@gcf.org.ph

ONLINE VISITOR'S CENTER

We are so glad you're here today! We want to personally welcome you via Zoom after the 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Worship Services.
Zoom Room: bit.ly/WelcometoGCF | Welcome Form: bit.ly/GCFWelcome



Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 1605
Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

☎ (02) 8632 1357 📠 8632 1354 to 56 🌐 gcf.org.ph ✉ email@gcf.org.ph