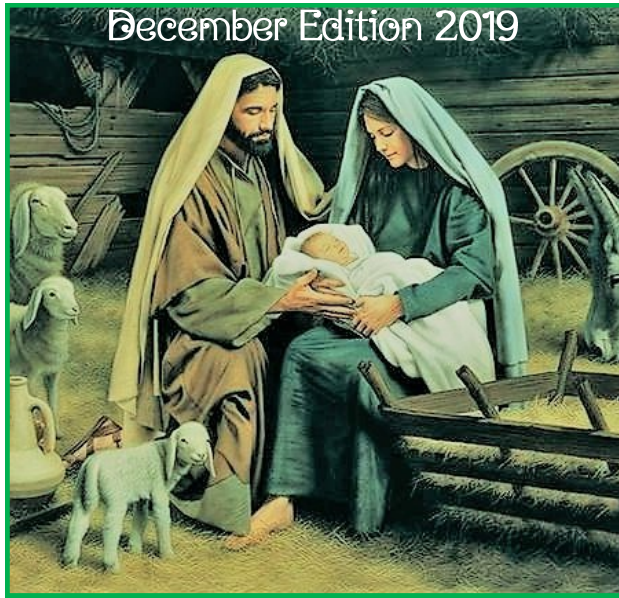


# MOUNT HERMON VOICE



December Edition 2019



Monthly Church Magazine

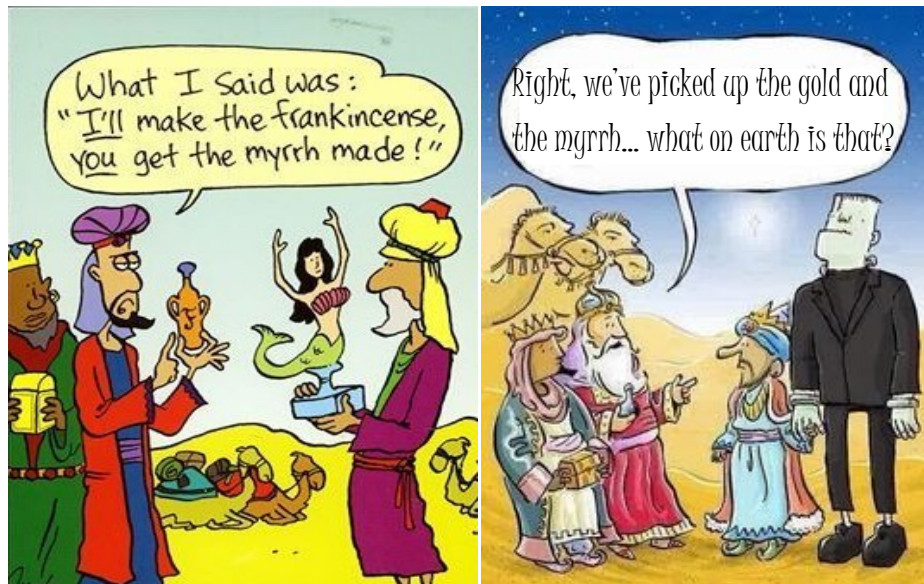
MERRY CHRISTMAS

My wife considered sending an email to all our friends and relatives saying “We have decided not to celebrate Christmas this year. We are going to celebrate the birth of Jesus instead”. I can see where she is coming from; Christmas has been hijacked. And I don’t want to totally spoil your festivities by pointing out that Jesus was not born in December. He was most likely born around the end of September, but people did not know that when they started celebrating Christmas over a thousand years ago, and I don’t think anyone is going to change the date now. Just for interest, for geeks like me, the evidence for a... September birth is fourfold; chronological, theological, astronomical... and agricultural. The CHRONOLOGICAL argument centres on when Zacharias went into the temple, and his wife Elizabeth became pregnant with John the Baptist. In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, Gabriel visited Mary with the announcement that she would give birth to Jesus. The supposed month of Jesus’ birth can, therefore, be estimated by calculating from the date of Zacharias’ clerical duty until the birth of Jesus. Which points to September. The THEOLOGICAL argument says that there were three main Jewish festivals; Passover, Pentecost & Tabernacles. Jesus being a man of occasions was crucified at Passover, poured out the Holy Spirit at Pentecost... and so maybe the other significant event in His life, His birth, should have occurred at Tabernacles, which is late September. The ASTRONOMICAL argument is based on the journey of the 3 wise men who followed the ‘star of Bethlehem’. There are long and interesting discussions online about the “King planet” Jupiter... coronating the “King star” Regulus and the constellation Virgo rising with the moon beneath her feet in 3 BC, and how this can be seen as foretelling the birth of a great King in September. The AGRICULTURAL evidence is - there were ‘shepherds in the fields looking after their flocks’. But sheep are brought in from the fields in Winter. Joseph and Mary travelled to Bethlehem for a Roman census - this would not have been called in December... but would likely have been called in - September which was a less intensive month for an agricultural society. All very interesting, but does it matter? The Queen of England has two birthdays each year. The day on which she was born celebrated privately, and her official birthday when everyone celebrates and gives gifts. I have always thought that if the Queen of England can have two birthdays then surely the King of kings can have two birthdays. His real birthday, and His official birthday in December when we all celebrate and give gifts.

We will celebrate Christmas this year with turkey and stuffing, baked potatoes and parsnips, brussel sprouts, carrots, gravy, bread sauce, and followed by mince pies, Christmas pud, brandy butter, Christmas cake and cheese (possibly not all at one sitting). We will play silly games with the children. But behind it all we will remember “the reason for the season”. The birth of Jesus, Son of man, Son of God, the saviour of the world. Wishing you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas.

David Sharples (Minister)





**OBSERVATIONS ON LIFE** - Even though you may want to move forward in your life, you could have one foot on the brakes without realising. If you want to be free you must learn how to let go. You need to release the hurt and release the fear. Refuse to entertain your old pain... as the energy it takes to hang on to the past is holding you back from having - a new life !  
 \*\*\*\*\*

The easiest thing in the world is to be you. The most difficult thing to be is what other people want you to be. Don't let them put you in that position!  
 \*\*\*\*\*

The third rate mind is only happy... when it is thinking with the majority. The second rate mind is only happy... when it is thinking with the minority. The first rate mind is only happy when it's thinking! Which describes you?  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Throughout life people will make you mad, they'll disrespect you and treat you badly. They'll oppose you, bully you and challenge you. Let God deal with the things they do, because hate in your heart will consume you too!  
 \*\*\*\*\*

An inexhaustible good nature is one of the most precious gifts of heaven, spreading like oil on a troubled sea of thought... and keeping the mind smooth and calm in the roughest weather - overriding the worst of storms.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Try as hard as we may for perfection, the net result of all our labours is an amazing variety of imperfectness. We are surprised at our ourselves in being able to fail in so many different ways. BUT - only God is perfect.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Life is just a great big canvas. Be sure to throw all the paint you can at it.

### God's Peace

God's tender love... and peace  
Is what we humans long for  
In a world so grossly chaotic,  
So unbalanced... and so unsure.

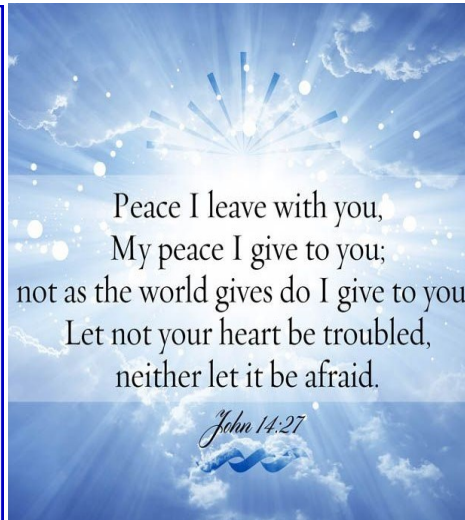
It brings stability to our minds  
And a calmness to our souls,  
That is what all mankind needs  
As this world can be - so cold.

We need to have God's peace  
When there's turmoil in our life,  
For His peace does not depend  
On our daily pressures, or strife.

When we have a stressful day,  
God's peace can really soothe,  
And bring us such a quiet hope  
That will chase away the blues.

So when you're feel pressured,  
Remember, our God and Christ,  
Accept the peace that He gives  
As His daily dose for your life!

Have a peaceful Christmas



### Practice Jesus by Joanna Fuchs

If we practiced Jesus in every way,  
It'd be like Christmas every day;  
If we, like Him, were meek and mild  
And loved each woman, man & child,  
If we'd read our Bible, it'd remind us,  
So - every single day would find us  
More and more in sweet accord  
With our sweet Jesus-Master, Lord.

Then every day that we're alive  
Would be like - December 25.

Our Christmas wish for you - May God be pleased to bless you with :  
Enough happiness to keep you pleasant... Enough trials to challenge  
you... Enough sorrow to make you compassionate... Enough success to  
urge you on... Enough failure to maintain your humility... Enough health  
to keep you smiling... Enough friends to share your life with... Enough  
faith to sustain you... Enough work for your hands and mind... Enough  
love to fill every corner of your heart... Enough love and gratitude to  
God... that you just can't contain it, you've got to - tell others about it.

IF YOU LOOK FOR ME

If you look for me at Christmas  
 You won't need a special star...  
 I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,  
 I am right there where you are.

You may not be aware of Me,  
 amid the many celebrations,  
 You' must look beyond the stores  
 and the fantastic decorations.

But if you take just a moment  
 from your list of things to do,  
 And listen to your heart, you'll find  
 I'm waiting there for you..

You're the one I want to be with,  
 you're the reason that I came,  
 You' will find me in the stillness  
 As I'm whispering your name.  
 Love - Jesus

WHAT CAN WE GIVE?

If we would take just half the measure  
 Of all we spend on Christmas pleasure  
 To give to others who have much less,  
 Our love for Jesus we would express.

What we spend on Christmas stuff,  
 (it's really way more - than enough)

To others it could mean so much more  
 Than the trifles we often will use it for.

The Bible tells us how we're to live;  
 A frequent lesson we're told is - 'give.'

It's time to spread uncommon cheer,  
 Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



**CHRISTMAS REFLECTION** In 1741, when he was 65 years old, Handel composed his sacred Oratorio... the Messiah.... the story of Jesus Christ. He completed the entire work in 24 days. He said the music just seemed to pour out of him - as if God Himself was composing the music. During that time Handel hardly went out. His man-servant would bring him his meals on a tray - only to find the previous meal still uneaten.

After composing the glorious Halleluia Chorus, with tears in his eyes Handel told his servant, "*I saw all heaven before me - and the great God Himself.*" At it's London premier at Covent garden Opera House... it was so magnificent that when the Halleluia Chorus was reached, King George the second spontaneously rose to his feet in admiration and awe, carried away by the heavenly music and singing. The entire audience stood up also (because of the King) throughout the playing of the Halleluia Chorus, where the choir sang from Revelation... the last book in the Bible :

*"For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The kingdoms of this world have become the Kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ... and He shall reign for ever and ever, King of Kings and Lord of Lords... Halleluia."*

And so, while we all might applaud Handel's wonderful music, which is a true masterpiece, let's not forget the source of his inspiration, the person of Jesus Christ - our Messiah - and Saviour and Friend, who was born in a stable at Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago. Jesus who said, "*I am the light of the world - those who follow me shall never walk in darkness, but shall have the Light of Life.*" He is the one that Christmas is all about !!

## LADIES KNITTING GROUP AT MOUNT HERMON



**KNITTING FOR ARMENIAN MINISTRIES.** Helping Armenian children who are born into poverty by crochet and knitting blankets, teddies and much- much more. Just over three and a half years ago Neil Bedford introduced us to Michael and Perouz Harrison, missionaries serving in Armenia... with our suggestion of crochet and knitted items for Armenian Ministries. Michael and Perouz were delighted with our idea.

"Knitting Together" was born January 2016. The idea just captured people's hearts and knitters came to join us. Very quickly we were given crochet and knitted items. The need is so great. We produce cardigans, jumpers, hats, scarves, gloves, soft toys, blankets, and socks. We can knit any pattern, to fit any size. They can be in any stitch, and any colour or combination of colours using any yarn suitable for children. Squares can be made in one piece or squares sewn together and edged. We do welcome all the help we can get.

Because of our strong firm links with the Harrisons and their regular travel back to the UK, they ensure that all our items go where they are needed and not sold for profit. Our monthly meetings are held at... Mount Hermon the last Tuesday of each month 10am to 12 noon. We do not meet in DECEMBER. Please pop in to see us whenever you can. You are always welcome. **'Share with the Lord's people who are in need.** [Romans 12 verse 13a.] (Article Submitted by Jill Jackson)

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES FOR DECEMBER

**SUN** 10.30. **Morning Worship** - everyone is welcome  
 1 David Sharples (Minister)..... MH + Communion  
 8 Neil Bedford..... Mount Hermon  
 15 No Morning Service will be held due to - Carol Service  
 15 **2.30 pm Christmas Carol Service** - come and join us.  
 22 **A Feast of Carols**..... led by Sylvia Somers (MH)  
 29 David Sharples (Minister)..... Mount Hermon

**TUE** These courses will be preceded by a light lunch at 1 p.m.  
 3 The Alpha Course at 1.30. pm  
 10 The Alpha Course at 1.30. pm  
 17 The Alpha Course at 1.30. pm  
 Not to be held in the chapel (TBA)  
 24th & 31st (no meetings to be held)



**WED** 4 7.30. pm - Life Group at David & Nikki's  
 11 7.30. pm - Life Group at David & Nikki's  
 18 7.30. pm - Life Group at David & Nikki's  
 25 10.30. am - Christmas Day Service

**THU** 5 Coffee Pot - 10 am to 11.30. am  
 12 Coffee Pot - 10 am to 11.30. am  
 19 Coffee Pot - 10 am to 11.30. am  
 26 **Not open - Boxing Day**



*The Chapel is open for prayer and private devotions.  
 Why not join us and meet new friends in a warm and,  
 friendly atmosphere... everybody is made welcome.*

### BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER



16th Joan W.  
 29th Josephine P.  
 31st Peter W.



*Have a great day you three*


 We cordially invite you to join us for our  
**CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE**


**2.30. pm on Sunday 15th December**

Enjoy singing your favourite Christmas carols as we  
 celebrate the birth of our saviour - Jesus Christ.

Service conducted by : Sylvia Somers

Coffee, Tea and Mince Pies will be served following the service.

This is the season This is the reason  



Come - celebrate Christ's Birth with us on Christmas Day  
**10.30. am Wednesday 25th December**

This is the season when we all contemplate  
 Peace on earth and good will towards men.

For unto you is born  
 this day in the city of  
 David a Saviour which  
 is Christ the Lord.

"JOY TO THE WORLD THE LORD IS COME, LET EARTH  
 RECEIVE HER KING. LET EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM  
 ROOM, AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING."





Jesus

IS THE GIFT

That perfectly fits every heart  
 And it is with His love that all celebration starts  
  
 We rejoice in Him as we remember His birth  
 And thank God for sending His only son to earth.  
 His life led from a manger to a cross upon a hill  
 Where He faithfully followed His fathers perfect will.  
  
 He freely laid down everything so we could live,  
 And there is no greater treasure anyone could give.  
 Like a scarlet ribbon His love wrapped around the cross,  
 And He offered it to us all at a measureless cost.

So when we give from the heart we remember what He's done,  
 And honour the perfect gift - God's one and only son.

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