

THE HOPE OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas Services 2020

Pastor Brian

“When hope is crushed, the heart is crushed.” (Proverbs 13:12a, GNB)

What Crushes Our Hope?

1. UNSOLVABLE PROBLEMS.

“Come, Lord, and show me your mercy, for I am helpless, overwhelmed, in deep distress; my problems go from bad to worse...” (Psalm 25:16–17, The Living Bible)

2. UNENDING PRESSURE.

“We do not want you to be uninformed...about the troubles we experienced...We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself.” (2 Corinthians 1:8, NIV)

3. UNBEARABLE PAIN.

“...my heart is full of pain.” (Psalm 109:22, NLT)

How Christmas Brought Hope to the World

1. HOPE IS A PROMISE.

“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf. The people of Israel will be abandoned to their enemies until the woman in labor gives birth...And he will stand to lead his flock with the LORD’s strength, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God...he will be highly honored around the world. And he will be the source of peace...” (Micah 5:2–5, NLT) (Prophesied 700 years before Christ!)

2. HOPE IS A PERSON.

“As [Joseph] considered [breaking their engagement], an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet: “Behold! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’ ”” (Matthew 1:20–23, NLT)

3. HOPE IS A POWER.

“This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 1:18, NLT)

“I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13, NLT)

ACTION STEP

Receive the HOPE of Christmas