

CHRISTMAS ISN'T COMPLICATED

Candlelight Service

December 22-24, 2022

Pastor Brian

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. ² (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

³ All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. ⁴ And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. ⁵ He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, and was expecting a child.

⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. ⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

⁸ That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep.

*⁹ Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, ¹⁰ but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. **"I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people."** ¹¹ The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! ¹² And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."*

¹³ Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

*¹⁴ "Glory to God in highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."*

Luke 2:1–14 (NLT)

HOW JESUS GETS US

1. He **CONNECTS** with our feelings.

*"Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood... **he had to enter into every detail of human life.** Then, when he came before God as high priest...he would have **already experienced it all himself**—all the pain, all the testing—and would be able to help where help was needed." (Hebrews 2:14a, 17–18, NLT/MSG)*

"The one who formed their hearts understands everything they do." (Psalm 33:15, GW)

"[Lord], you've kept track of my every toss and turn through the sleepless nights, Each tear entered in your ledger, each ache written in your book." (Psalm 56:8, The Message)

"The LORD is near the brokenhearted; He saves those crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18, HCSB)

2. He **CALMS** our fears.

*“the angel reassured them. **“Don’t be afraid!”**” (Luke 2:10, NLT)*

*“Jesus stood up and commanded the wind and said to the waves, **“Quiet! Be still!”** Then the wind stopped, and it became completely calm.” (Mark 4:39, NCV) See also Psalm 107:29*

*“For **the LORD your God is living among you**. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. **With his love, he will calm all your fears...**” (Zephaniah 3:17, NLT)*

3. He **COVERS** our failure.

*“...For **only as a human being could he die**, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. **Only in this way could he set free all who have lived...**” (Hebrews 2:14–15, NLT)*

“I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest.” (John 10:10, CEV)

“Because all people have sinned, they have fallen short of God’s glory.” (Romans 3:23, GW)

*“**He died for everyone** so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.” (2 Corinthians 5:15, NLT)*

“I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people.” (Luke 2:30–31, NLT)

“Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me.” (Isaiah 49:16, ESV)

“To all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—” (John 1:12, NIV)

“Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Acts 2:21, GW)

ACTION STEPS

- Give your life to Jesus.
- Follow Him in believer’s baptism.
- Turn in your Connect Card.
- Give your year-end offering.

Reading Plan

THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

— 13 DAY READING PLAN —



<https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/23564-the-twelve-days-of-christmas>