



IMPACT COMMUNITIES
real life. real impact.

Sequoia Impact Communities are a place to experience real life & real impact. To get plugged in email: impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**The Greatest Announcement #3 of 3
Christmas 2016**

Christmas Day

Take some time as an individual, family, or Impact Community to reflect on the meaning of Christmas and celebrate the birth of Jesus the Saviour King.

Begin by reading this invitation: “Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.” Psalm 100:1-2

Read and reflect on Isaiah 9:1-7

Read the Christmas story. If you have young children in your midst you may want to encourage them to act it out as you read the story.

Luke 2:1-14 2 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, who was now 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 Saviour—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.”

Watch video message (6 min): <https://youtu.be/huXU-ArkGbA>

Take time to pray and thank God for the identity we now have in Christ.

Closing Prayer: Jesus Christ, our newborn King: We rejoice that you came among us in all your glory, taking on our life so that we might share in yours. In your conception and birth you’ve come to remove our sin - ours since we were first conceived - redeeming us from sin and slavery and giving us a new destiny and inheritance. In your birth you inaugurated a revolution of renewal and restoration, inviting us to join you in this work of “making all things new.” We thank you and we praise you today for you are worthy to be called the King of kings and the Lord of lords. We love you Jesus! Make your home among us today and always. Amen.



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SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message

The Greatest Announcement

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor
Dec. 24, 2016 - Christmas Eve



Luke 2:8-20 ⁸ That night (when Jesus was born) 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 Saviour—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."

¹⁵ When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. ¹⁷ After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. ¹⁸ All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, ¹⁹ but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. ²⁰ The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

God's grace is available to everyone because God loves everyone.

True joy is found in a relationship with Jesus.

Psalm 16:11 "You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever."

Big Idea: True joy comes when we enjoy God.