



BETHANY UNITED METHODIST
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Greetings,

I hope you find this devotional helpful in your daily journey. Let me know what you think.

Blessings, Pastor Dan

A Reflection: Christmas

Greetings:

One winter season my car started to make a grinding sound when I applied the brakes - not something you want to hear or feel on an icy road. For me, it was a warning alarm to have some repairs done. It could still be driven, but I knew that to do so without attending to its various "pleas" would eventually cause greater damage and incur even larger expenses to keep it running. I could either ignore it at my own peril, or see it as a helpful reminder to do maintenance.

In some way I think that Christmas is like that too. Alarms were going off two thousand years ago - war, rumors of war, despair, illness and so on. Their world, like ours today, had need of repair. In that moment God sent Jesus in the form of man. Jesus came to break the power of darkness that

continued to grow on the face of the earth. The game changer was to bring in the Kingdom of God into the hearts

and minds of those open to receive it. The gift was a reorientation at the very core of humanity, in which the Spirit of God was freely poured out as the ultimate 'birthday present' for the world.

As long as I drive the car, I can anticipate that I will be occasionally greeted by an alarm. Similarly, alarms continue to be rung in our world and the people in it when they have need of transformation. God's response today is a little different than two thousand years ago, though. Instead, God sends you and me into the fray as bearers of the Kingdom of God. My prayer for you this Christmas season is that you bring the gift that can't be purchased at a store - the gift of God's presence into all you do.

Blessings, Pastor Dan

Upcoming Dates

Monday: Bounty Food Bank - 9 am to Noon, Volunteers welcomed.

Friday: Bounty Food Bank: needs Volunteers every Friday for food pickup and storage help. Call 253-335-7860.

Next Sunday: Choir Practice 10:00

- Worship Service 11:00

I Hope you had a blessed Christmas - It was a wonderful time at the church the past several days.

- A special *Thank you* to those that helped with The Longest Night Service, as well as the Kids/ Adult Nite (downstairs).

Jon Short

A memorial service will be held at Mason United Methodist Church, 2710 N Madison St, Tacoma, WA 98407, on December 29, 2018, beginning at 1:30 pm. The family asks that you make remembrances in Jon's name through the United Methodist Church to the Hope for the Children of Africa project, or to the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Please keep in your prayers...

Judy Egan
James & Jenifer Angus

Mary Egeland

Danielle - and family

Liz Best - thankfully she is at home now, but could still use prayers for healing

For Jonathan Albert Short's family