

# Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

December 2021

## The Gift That Includes All Others



The following article is gently lifted from the *Berean Searchlight*, December 2018, by Pastor Paul M. Sadler:

**W**hether the occasion is a holiday, a birthday celebration, or a graduation, it is customary to give a gift. While some gifts are given out of necessity, a gift, for the most part is an expression of our love. We normally bestow these tokens of our affection on those whom we feel deserve the honor. But God's ways are not our ways. He gave the gift of His beloved Son to His *enemies*. That's a true story! Oh, the wonder of His grace that God sent His only begotten Son, the Son of His love, to save sinners like you and me while we were fleeing from the glory of His presence. Little wonder the Apostle Paul says, "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift" (2 Cor. 9:15).

The word "unspeakable" here has the idea of "indescribable." The gifts I've received through the years were all describable. Some may have been a little harder to describe than others, but describable nonetheless. But the gift of God's dear Son is *indescribable*. Who can explain the incarnation: how the eternal Son of God left heaven's glory and took upon Himself the form of human flesh, yet was not tainted with our sin? Who can explain how Christ was wholly God and wholly human in one person? These wonders can only be received through the eye of faith.

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**Pastor Emeritus Arthur Sims**

**Kathleen Smith, Editor**

**All Are Welcome!**

**Sunday Worship 10:30 AM**

**(Sunday Messages available on website)**

**Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM**

**Thursday Evening Bible Study 7:00 PM**

**"And to make all men see  
what is the fellowship of the mystery,  
which from the beginning of the world  
hath been hid in God, who created  
all things by Jesus Christ: . . ."**

**- Ephesians 3:9**

## The Gift That Includes All Others

(Continued from Page 1)

The manger and the Cross stand at the two extremes of our Lord's life, but they are connected by the tapestry of redemption. Hence, "Christ Jesus *came* into the world to save sinners." A love story that ends with a death is tragic. In contrast, the death of Christ is the greatest demonstration of love this world has ever seen. How much does God love you? He gave His only begotten Son to die on your behalf. You see, Christ wasn't dying for His sin, He knew no sin; He was dying for your sins and my sins at Calvary. He was made sin for us that we might receive the righteousness of God in Him. Have you trusted Him?

Surely you would never think of paying for a gift; why, the giver would be highly offended - how much more so with God. The payment for

your sins has already been furnished by the Giver. Simply receive Him as a gift from God. If you have, then why not thank Him today for His unspeakable gift? After all, this is the Gift that includes all others! ■

Despite daily challenges sometimes, Janet and I have so much to be thankful for - continued health and two new precious grandchildren, Samuel and Sabrina. We are so grateful to God. Our entire family wish you a very blessed Christmas as you remember God's gift of our Savior's birth, His death, burial, and resurrection for you for all eternity, as we all eagerly look forward to His imminent return.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Phil



Please plan to join us on  
Sunday, December 12, 2021  
at 10:30 AM

For our Annual Christmas Program

Where we set aside a brief time to read the Scriptures that chronicle Our Lord's incarnation and remember His Birth.

It will be a time of reflection, praise, song and remembering the birth of our Savior,  
The Lord Jesus Christ



"But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." Galatians 4:4-5 KJV



Each year, Avalon Grace Church supports and participates in Samaritan's Purse worldwide ministry, "Operation Christmas Child." It is wonderful to know that our small fellowship in Naples, FL is part of a greater worldwide ministry caring for children in bringing the gospel message of Jesus Christ to children at Christmas and hopefully, all year long.

Kids everywhere need to know that God loves them just as they are. They need to know that Jesus died for them and rose again to bring them to their heavenly Father.

With every shoebox that is filled with little toys and practical gifts, we include the gospel message of God's grace and love.

Thank you all for participating in this year's ministry with your monetary gifts and little toys of story books, stuffed animals, coloring books, toothbrushes, and even T-shirts for kids across the globe. Avalon Grace Church had a total of 14 shoe-boxes filled to the brim with toys and Christmas gifts to delight little children in addition to another 40 shoe boxes purchased on-line due to your generous monetary gifts to support this wonderful ministry! Thank you all so much! Here are some pictures of shoe boxes in the process of being filled!



Avalon Grace Church also will be sending \$1,200.00 to Brazil's Project ABBA. ABBA is a ministry of "Things to Come Mission" that reaches children with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Recife, Brazil. The Campos and Le Febbers have been missionaries with "Things to Come Missions" in Brazil for many years. Each year, Avalon Grace Church participates in providing underprivileged children an opportunity to

hear the Gospel and receive a few small Christmas gifts. Your generosity makes that happen! Thank you so much for your generous gifts and prayers for the success of the outreach in reaching more souls for Christ and your support of this life-saving ministry.



## POT LUCK LUNCHEON . . . The food that keeps on giving!



On Sunday, November 14, 2021, Avalon Grace Church enjoyed a Thanksgiving Pot Luck Luncheon immediately following the worship service. The food was plentiful and delicious and Fellowship Hall was decorated splendidly with autumn leaves, grapevine pumpkins, with shades of brown, orange, yellow, crimson red, and green! We had a very good time of fellowship just hanging out together! Thank you for the hands that cooked, baked, served, and brought all the great food! Here are a few pictures that capture all the fun!









## Christmas

Written by Don Darsch, 2014

### **Silent Night Holy Night,**

A night the Father chose,  
To introduce his only Son  
Wrapped in swaddling clothes.

### **It Came Upon a Midnight Clear**

The silent night began to glow,  
**While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks**  
They were among the first to know.

### **Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

To announce the Savior's birth.  
And you **O Little Town of Bethlehem**  
Was chosen from all towns on earth.

### **Angels from the Realms of Glory,**

**Joy to the World** is what they sang  
So we might have redemption's story  
Their voices through the night air rang.

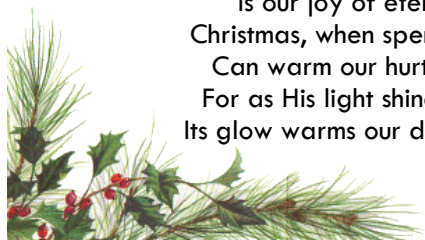
### **God Rest You Merry Gentlemen**

And gentlewomen too  
And all the children of the earth  
God showed his love for me and you.

## Christ Is the Light of Christmas

By M.S. Lowndes

Christmas joy and lights aglow;  
Christmas songs to warm and cheer  
Excitement is on the children's faces  
As anticipation fills the air —  
But for some, it can be lonely  
When loved ones have passed away,  
Memories are all that linger  
As the years begin to fade  
But Christ's light should never dim;  
It should ever shine out bright  
Our ray of hope in this troubled world  
Is our joy of eternal light  
Christmas, when spent with Jesus,  
Can warm our hurting hearts,  
For as His light shines within us,  
Its glow warms our deepest parts.



## The Work of Christmas Begins

- Howard Thurman, adapted

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
then the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost, to heal those broken in spirit,  
to feed the hungry, to release the oppressed,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among all peoples,  
make a little music with the heart. . .  
And to radiate the Light of Christ,  
every day, in every way,  
in all that we do and in all that we say.  
Then the work of Christmas begins.

**A**ngels from the realms of glory

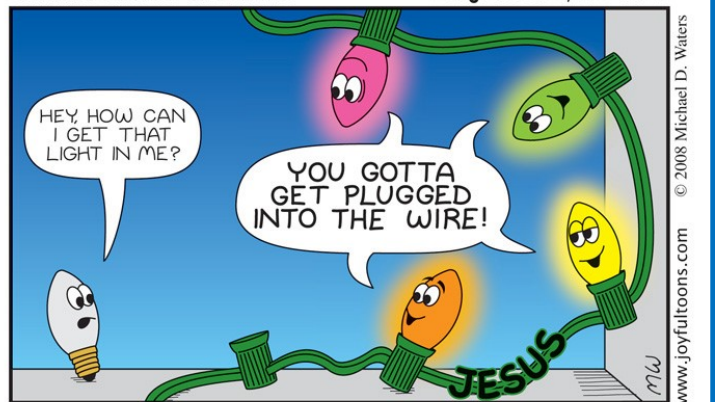
Wing your flight o'er all the earth  
Ye, who sang creations story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth



**C**ome and worship,  
come and worship,  
Worship Christ the newborn King!

### CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

- JOHN 8:12 KJV



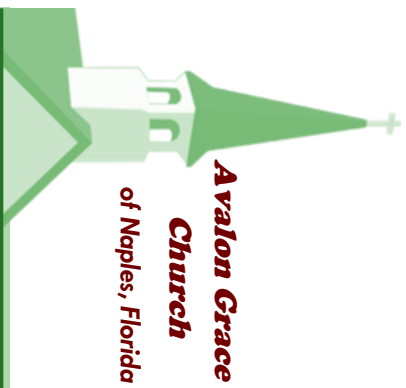


With the birth of Jesus, God became a man to walk among us and be our Savior.



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“And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.” - Luke 2:7



**Avalon Grace  
Church**  
of Naples, Florida

# December 2021



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1 2 3 4

7:00 PM Bible Study

5 6 7 8 9 10 11

9:45 Sunday  
Breakfast  
10:30 AM Sunday  
Worship  
10:45 AM Children's  
Sunday School



**PEARL HARBOR  
REMEMBRANCE DAY**

7:00 PM Bible Study

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

10:30 AM Sunday  
Worship  
& Christmas Program  
10:45 AM Children's  
Sunday School

7:00 PM Bible Study

1 9 2 0 2 1 2 2 2 3 2 4 2 5

10:30 AM Sunday  
Worship  
The LORD'S Supper  
Observed  
10:45 AM Children's  
Sunday School

7:00 PM Bible Study



**WINTER BEGINS**

2 6 2 7 2 8 2 9 3 0 3 1

10:30 AM Sunday  
Worship  
10:45 AM Children's  
Sunday School

7:00 PM Bible Study **NEW YEAR'S EVE**



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY  
TO YOU!**

- 7th Christian Stevens
- 10th Jordan McClellan
- 18th Willard Barreth
- 18th Barbara Marshall
- 19th Kathleen Smith
- 28th Art Sims
- 31st Jim Asher

**COMING IN JANUARY 2022**

2nd 9:45 AM Sunday  
Breakfast