

December 15, 2008

Dear Calvary Friends,

This Christmas so many are suffering with lost incomes, foreclosures, short sales, and high anxiety. It can be hard to find hope and joy in the financial mess. Sadly, many relationships are also experiencing increased strain due to the financial pressure. Where is the hope? It is in the Incarnate Word, Jesus Christ. When Jesus entered humanity it was at a time when the Jewish people were subject to Roman occupation, oppression, and unfair taxation and deep resentment about their situation as a subject people. God became a human being to reconcile us with God and also to be an example of selfless love and hope at all times, both in times of prosperity and despair.

The gift of the Incarnation is a gift for all of humanity. Importantly, it is also a gift for each of us individually. It is the gift of love, hope, and security in knowing that our Creator loves us and desires a direct and loving relationship with us. The Incarnation is coming in just a short while now. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit and through prayer, may we find strength and courage during these difficult times. May the Incarnation be yours this year.

With Christ's Love,

Pastor Mary+

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Sunday, December 21st – Christmas pageant at 9:30 a.m. worship service

Wednesday, December 24th (Christmas Eve) – Celebration of the birth of Christ at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 28th – Celebration of the 1st Sunday of Christmas at **9:00 a.m. only**
(with music)