

CALVARY YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

# CALVARY YOUTH VOICES



THE CHRISTMAS EDITION



## PSALM 9:9

The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a  
refuge in times of trouble.

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## EDITOR'S LETTER

Hello readers!

It is almost the end of the year! Thank God for seeing us through the year so far, adjusting from the height of the pandemic last year. Since it is the end of the year, the CYV Committee has also compiled a list of how YFers have grown or what they have achieved over the past one year. As we slow down our pace and enter a time of holiday cheer, let us also take time to reflect and think about what God has blessed us with.

For our meditation for this issue, we will be looking at Psalm 56:3-5.

What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.  
In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my  
trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.  
Every day they wrest my words: all their thoughts  
are against me for evil.

In this Psalm, David is speaking to God; having gone through multiple trials and tribulations throughout his life. He had seen the many wonders and judgements that God had revealed to him, achieved great victories and suffered many spiritual and physical losses. But through it all, he was able to render due glory and praise to God whilst having the desire to seek Him.

We see this through the psalms where David proclaimed the power and majesty of God, the psalms where David whispered these prayers quietly to God, drawing nearer to His side and relying upon Him in times of weariness and tiredness.



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## EDITOR'S LETTER

In Psalm 56, David portrays himself as a dove -- driven far from the comfort of its nest, afflicted by the ravenous birds that seek to destroy it and desperately seeking to find a place of safety. As the dove searches, he ultimately finds solace and protection in the presence of God. Like David, we have all encountered times when everything has gone well for us – our grades are good, friendships are secure, work rewarding or holidays relaxing. However, there are times where things have been the exact opposite – you feel overwhelmed by work, spiralling from many things that have gone wrong.

In times like these we need to ask ourselves:

*When do we really trust God?  
Do we know what truly trusting in Him means?*

In times of difficulty, when we do not see things going the way we desire, we turn to God. Do we only regard Him as someone who has the power to turn bad things into good, almost like a reverse card in card games. Only when things start to take a dark turn, we seek God and ask Him to give us strength, to ask Him to change it into what we want them to be. Do we regard God merely a genie whom we seek once a while to ask for things?

We ought to examine our attitude towards God and how we seek Him. He is the one who rules the entire universe – the stars and galaxies are in the palm of His hands. He is the One whom the elders and angels fall on their knees to worship day and night forever and ever; whom by the breath of His nostrils consumes His enemies and makes the heavens and earth His footstool.

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## EDITOR'S LETTER

Let us be careful with how we see God. He deserves the reverential fear that we should render to Him as His children. We need to come before Him in all meekness and humility, with the right heart, mind and attitude and He will incline His ear towards us. He will never forsake us, and we, as children saved by Him, should rightfully give Him the respect He deserves.

We cannot and should not seek Him only when troubles arise but in all moments of your life. We need to allow ourselves to be surrounded by the presence of God in all that we do, to seek Him in all aspects of our life. This applies both in times of difficulty and in times which are seemingly smooth-sailing – we are reminded that He is Sovereign. He is the one that chooses to bless us or to allow us to encounter trials and tribulations, in accordance with His perfect will and purpose.

Fear not, as this is a struggle that most have. We, as mere fallible humans, cannot comprehend the ways and thoughts of God, for He is far higher and greater than we are. Isaiah 55:8-9 says:

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither  
are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so  
are my ways higher than your ways, and my  
thoughts than your thoughts.

We will never be able to fully understand God's ways and intentions. What we can do is to seek Him in times of uncertainty, times where you feel tired, afraid, lost. These are moments when we can truly exercise our faith in Him, where we can shine for Him as a testimony. As we exercise our trust in Him, it will slowly grow in strength; like a muscle. We have to 'train' it with much patience, prayer and faith.



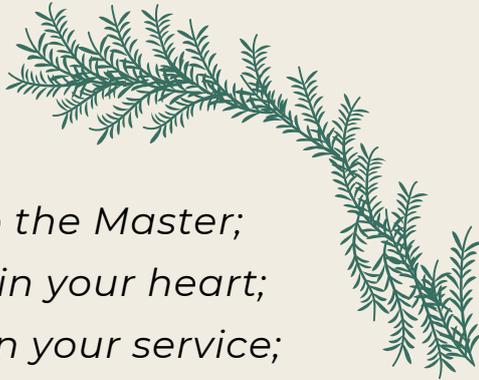
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## EDITOR'S LETTER

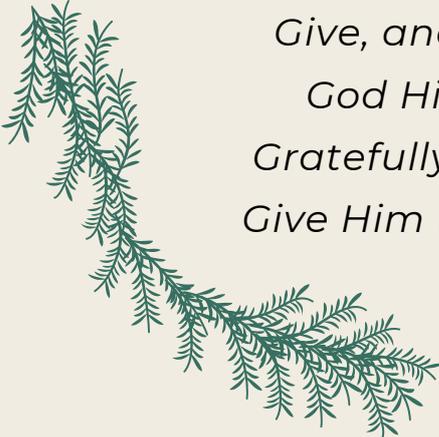
David continually exercised this muscle and rejoices that by trusting in God, he no longer fears what flesh can do to him. He repeats this phrase ("I will not fear what flesh can do unto me") twice in Psalm 56. This emphasises the importance of the strong foundation that he had in God, to put his wholehearted trust in God.

We need to exercise our trust in Him today -- not tomorrow, next week but now. We need to put our trust, hope, our whole being in Him. We need to completely rely upon His hand to lead us and be confident in Him. We can take comfort in the fact that whatever He does, He does it for our best. We should continually seek His Word for instruction and guidance, to consecrate ourselves to Him; to truly give our absolute best to Him.

In Christ,  
The Editor



*Give of your best to the Master;  
Give Him first place in your heart;  
Give Him first place in your service;  
Consecrate every part.  
Give, and to you will be given;  
God His beloved Son gave;  
Gratefully seeking to serve Him,  
Give Him the best that you have.*



# NEWSFLASH!

## *YF Get-Together - Amanda*

Just a few weeks ago the group of Faithfulness had our YF get together. We held it a week later for more NS people to join us. Thank God that our group was able to gather with zoom and spend time together in fellowship. The message that day was on honouring our parents by Dn Weng Ngai. In the message, he used the story of Saul and Jonathan to relay the message on honouring parents even though it may be difficult to do so. Being familiar with the 10 commandments, I expected the same kind of message that most of us have heard since young, assuming that we grew up in a Church. Instead it was a good reminder to not only look at our actions but examine the intent behind our actions when we honour our parents. He ended the message with some common sense truths about parents. Personally, what stuck with me most from this message was Dn Weng Ngai's example of the role reversal between himself and his mother. Time really passes more quickly than you'd expect and one day we'll also be the ones taking care of our parents. The ways in which we honour our parents will also change as we grow and our relationships with them change.



# NEWSFLASH!

## *YF Get-Together - Amanda*



After a brief time of discussion and sharing we pivoted over to games which were great! Slightly experimental but fun 🤖 the first game we played was a trivia game with questions that maybe kids would be better at answering with all the questions on Barney and psle science... and we learnt that we are all not very smart... oops... Then we played a zoom variation of broken telephone where we tried to read lips and used charades to help it along. This is one of the things that can be done online but not in person since we have to wear masks. Our final game for that day was the most experimental of them all. I'm sure many of us have played games where we go in a round and add to a story, but have you played a no laughing and smiling version of it? It's surprisingly difficult to make things funny while trying not to express emotion. Also, the story got a little strange, but it would be better not to elaborate. Please try this out when you get the chance, results may vary.

**KEEPING  
UP**

**WITH THE  
YFERS**

**THE LATEST  
NEWS ON  
YFERS**

*In this issue of keeping up with the YFers, we catch up with some interesting anecdotes from those currently going through NS and get some helpful advice from those who just graduated from JC!*

## **REEVE BECOMES A PROFESSIONAL DOG HANDLER**



Imagine working with dogs. Sounds like a dream doesn't it? But not for Reeve. Though he thought that he had a somewhat easier posting, it presented a major downside: he was afraid of dogs. It didn't help that his sergeant said that the dog "won't bite you, I think..."

Understandably, Reeve barely touched his partnered dog "Major". Honestly, who would when you are new to a dog with 3 inch long teeth? Every single one of his sessions were accompanied by many prayers for safety. Having to deal with his heightened anxiety and fear, he also frequently forgot his basics. Worse still, having to listen to the enciks really made him consider "kenging". But through it all, he kept Psalms 23:4 with him. Said Reeve: "No matter how scary or big our problems may be, we must keep faith in our Lord, who will tide us through any troubles."

## **NATHAN'S VOYAGE IN THE NAVY**

Now here is one person who can relate to Ah Boys to Men (3: Frogmen AHAHA). Growing up scared of water, Nathan has grown to enjoy the water. In his vocation as a boat commander, he commented that he found it “thrilling” to sail at high speeds at seas, and highly recommends this fun activity. Updating the writer with a really positive tone, he agreed that NS could be tough at times. Having to go through the demanding physical training, needing a high level of technical skill and urgent tasks to finish are all part and parcel of NS life. Yet he has found this time “quite rewarding”. Quoting Psalm 126:5 to sum up his experience, the writer is sure that we will be hearing more interesting stories about his time in NS!



## **GAVIN'S TIPS FOR INCOMING JC STUDENTS**

On the other hand, Gavin now feels old (20+ year olds can't relate). Having his JC life interrupted by Covid-19, he first thought that it was too boring. But he soon saw the bright side: he could now spend more time at home watching many more shows or working on his hobbies! Being no stranger to sociability, Gavin also mentioned that he didn't have any huge regrets since he still had time to spend with his friends.

When asked if he had any words for students going to or in JC, he had many nuggets of wisdom #Gavinisms #whyisthisbatchsodeep .

1. Make sure to enjoy your time in JC because it may seem long at first but time flies
2. Spend more time with your JC friends especially in J1 because that's when you'll have more time
3. Make sure that u keep up with schoolwork in J2 cause the work can snowball if you're not careful enough

All solid pieces of advice!! To all those heading to JC, make sure you have this in mind at all times!

# **JOANNE OFFICIALLY GRADUATES FROM JC!**

Graduations are big once-in-a-while events, and for Joanne, she is thankful that she has finally graduated from JC!

Her journey begins from her placing ACJC in one of her choices just for its proximity, and getting it despite not thinking that she could do so. Things worsened when she felt unhappy during her first few weeks of school, to the extent of questioning God's will for her. Furthermore, there was Covid-19!!! Academics studies rarely come as an easy feat to anyone, and it was no exception for Joanne. Having to face the giant that was her A levels, she felt uncertain and fearful at times, not knowing if she could do well, what God had in store for her, what others would think of her if she did poorly.

Yet, in retrospect, she was thankful that God had brought her through this wild ride, teaching her the need to be humble and rely on God fully through her life. Also wanting to share this as a piece of advice, Joanne said that "as Christians, all the plans that God has for us is for good, so all we need to do is trust Him and be a good testimony for Him, and we know that God will lead us through and help us to be better vessels for His use" #Joanneism.

Coincidentally, Joanne's graduation fell on her 18th birthday (another big event!). She mentioned that it was especially meaningful to her as it was a day that marked two tough years in school (though A levels aren't done) and it gave her a chance to think about how God has always been faithful to provide for her, no matter the circumstance, and giving her further proof that she could always trust in Him!



# END-OF-YEAR REFLECTIONS!

I am thankful to God for His faithfulness and providence, esp in school.  
 I am grateful for the opportunity to be baptised.  
 I am grateful for God's mercies and blessings every day.

What/Who are you grateful for this year?

Family,  
 People  
 whom i  
 love

Being able to  
 learn more  
 about the Bible

- for family, who has supported me throughout this eventful year filled with lots of change and new experiences
- for friends (new and old), who i've gone through this past year with!
- for God's blessings shown in multiple ways and through many people this year :-)

People who  
 love and care  
 for me, more  
 than I deserve.

Finding an  
 internship!

I'm grateful for drawing closer to God and spending more time on His word this year. I'm also really thankful for the few close friends I have

safety in  
 the time  
 of the  
 pandemic

being able to  
 run again!

My family  
 and all  
 my  
 friends in  
 SG

Parents  
 Friends  
 Time with God  
 God's providence  
 and mercies

I am grateful  
 for my family,  
 friends and  
 everything my  
 parents have  
 provided for me

smooth first year  
 in sec school

Family

Everybody

# END-OF-YEAR REFLECTIONS!

Share one thing you've gleaned from your spiritual walk with God this year!

I can always go to God with my worries, struggles, thanksgiving, or anything for that matter and He can give me peace.

Reflecting on the sin in my life and how it harms my relationship with God and others

how easy it is to fall away from God. we know it in theory, but to actually experience it makes you reflect on the fickleness of humans

I learnt how to control my emotions

I have understood more how to obey God and improve myself

God is sovereign over all things - He uses both non-believers and believers to work out his will.  
God is merciful - His love is beyond understanding and human comprehension  
God is all-providential: Whatever we face in life, God is there to provide for us. We very possibly haven't fathomed how much God has done for us in our lives

Sin separates us from God and also tends to causes a lot of contentious relationships with those around us, although I knew this from growing up in church, it was another thing to reflect on it seriously and assess the sin in my life (still a work in progress of course!)

- More faith in God during trials

No particular lesson. But it's so comforting to constantly immerse oneself in God's word.

It's such a blessing to immerse oneself totally in God's word.

-that He will never leave you, nor forsake you and His plan is always right for you

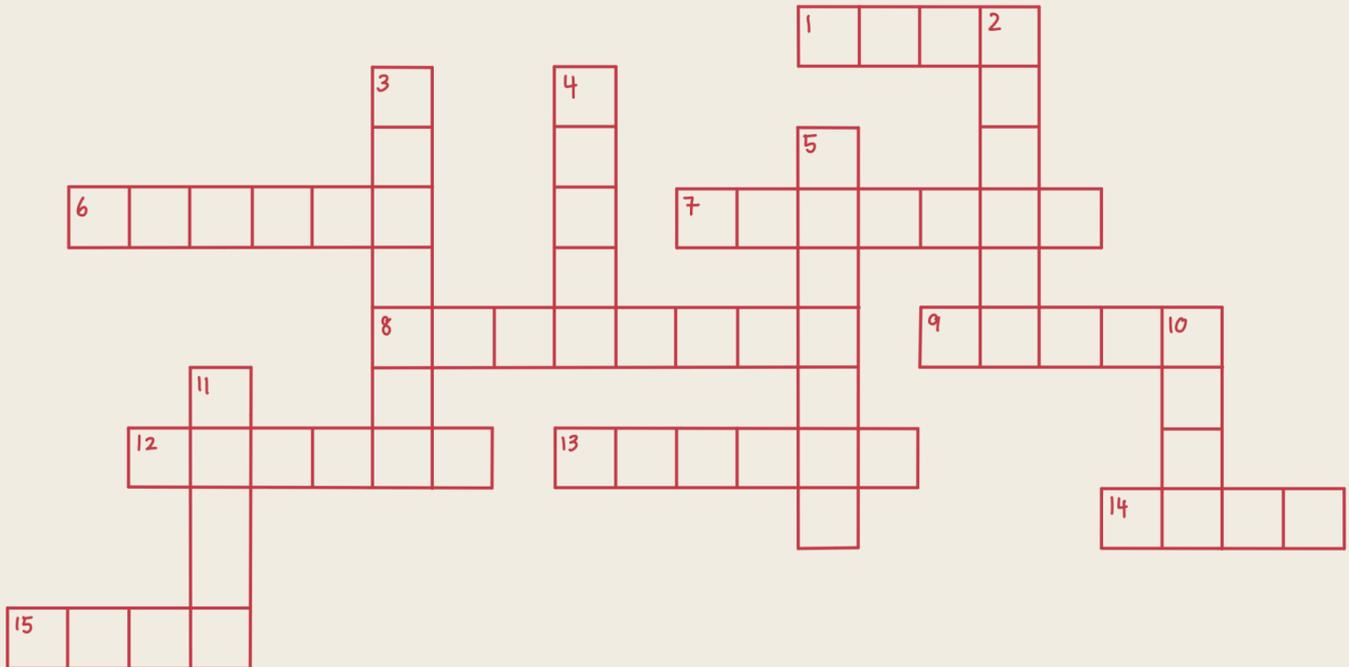
that we need to have patience in our daily lives, not lash out at people as it can cause us to sin easier

God uses trials to help us grow in Him

trust in God

I have learn a lot of things that will help me improve my relationship with god and other people

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



## Down

2. Goes to uni in the east
3. Already working
4. Is more interested in litigation
5. Has lost their phone overseas
10. Takes Japanese as a third language
11. Arsenal fan...

## Across

1. Just got their driver's license
6. Hockey player
7. Tennis player
8. Does karate
9. Works with dogs  
(hint: read more in our articles!)
12. Preparing for a masters
13. Has gone to Japan on her own
14. Has a Thai birth certificate
15. Volleyballer

## Answers:

1. Gwen 2. Nicole 3. Clarice 4. Julia 5. Clarice 6. Joshua Mav 7. Brandon 8. Ignatius 9. Reeve 10. Elsa 11. Gavin 12. Samuel 13. Amanda 14. Nara 15. Coen

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# CHRISTMAS CAROLS: JOY TO THE WORLD

Randall Van Meggelen - Ligonier.org

The popular carol Joy to the World was penned by Isaac Watts in his Psalms of David Imitated in the Language of the New Testament (1719). Watts paraphrased 138 psalms through the lens of their fulfillment in the redemptive work of Christ.

Though Watts never intended for the hymn to be sung merely during Christmas, most hymnals list it as a Christmas carol. During the Christmas season, we celebrate the threefold advent of Christ in His incarnation, His dwelling in our hearts by His Spirit, and His glorious return in the last days. These three aspects are each portrayed in Watts' hymn, Joy to the World.

This famous hymn is one of my favourite carols because it faithfully conveys the resounding message in Psalm 98 that Jesus saves. Salvation is completely of the Lord. Christ is our Victorious Warrior whose "...right hand, and His holy arm hath gotten Him the victory" (Psalm 98:1). He is our Savior who, in fulfilling His covenant with Abraham (Genesis 17), "remembered His mercy and His truth to the house of Israel" (v.3) and blessed all nations. "...all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God" (v.3). He is the Prophet who reveals His Father's will. "The LORD has made known His salvation" (v.2). He is our King (v.6) and Judge (v.9). He saves us from the penalty, pollution, power, and ultimately, the presence of sin.

**Joy to the world!**

**The Lord is come,**

**Let Earth receive her King**



# CHRISTMAS CAROLS: JOY TO THE WORLD

Randall Van Meggelen - Ligonier.org



Joy to the World traces the redemption story throughout history, from the promise in the garden (Genesis 3:15) to Christ's glorious return. "No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found" (stanza 3). Tremper Longman III rightly summarizes Psalm 98's expression of God's salvation in three movements, which are fulfilled in Christ our Savior, King, Judge: "Israel is to praise God for saving them in the past" (v.1-3). "All the earth is to praise God for being King in the present (v.4-6). "The entire universe is to praise God for coming to judge in the future" (v.7-9)."

We can learn from Joy to the World and Psalm 98 not to sentimentalize Christmas by merely seeing Christ as a helpless baby apart from His mission. Christ our Savior must also be our Victorious Saviour and Judge. He fulfills the psalmist's prayer for God to "deliver me in thy righteousness" (Psalm 31:1). He "makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love" (stanza 4). He has won the bloody battle. He has put enmity between the serpent and the woman (Genesis 3:15). "...His right hand, and His holy arm hath gotten Him the victory" (Psalm 98:1). "God's salvation accomplishes all that His holy righteousness requires" (J. A. Motyer).

Joy to the World and Psalm 98 instruct us in our response to such a great salvation. For the believer, Joy to the World is a message of joy. Joy is a central motif of the entire Advent season, indeed of the entire Christian life.

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# CHRISTMAS CAROLS: JOY TO THE WORLD

Randall Van Meggelen - Ligonier.org

Our joy is in the finished work of the Lord, whom we glorify and enjoy forever. Psalm 98 is replete with references to joy — "Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth; Break forth in song, rejoice...Shout joyfully to the LORD, the King...Let the hills be joyful together before the LORD."

This beloved carol echoes Psalm 98's command to joyfully proclaim God's great deeds to all the earth. Just as God has openly displayed His salvation, righteousness, reign, and judgment in the sight of all nations, so also God's covenant people, all nations, and all creation, must burst forth in praise to Him.

Joy to the World addresses Psalm 98's theme that our ultimate eternal purpose is to joyfully worship the Lord. Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church; worship is. Christ's redemptive work always results in an outpouring of praise, a praise which deepens as it approaches the complete fulfillment of God's redemptive work. Tremper Longman III notes that the believer "sing unto the LORD a new song" (v.1), which intensifies to "Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth; make a loud noise" (v.4) to all creation praising God. "Let the sea roar" (v.7) and "the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together" (v.8).

Our daily and weekly worship is a foretaste of the eternal worship of the Lord before His throne, where we will for all eternity "repeat the sounding joy." May your singing of this carol comfort and encourage you as you remember that your joy is in your Savior and Lord, who has given you the delightful duty to "repeat the sounding joy" of the "wonders of His love" now and forevermore.

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# CHRISTMAS CAROLS: O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

Keith Mathison - Ligonier.org

Of the many beautiful hymns that have been composed in celebration of the birth of Christ, few in my mind equal the depth of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. The origins of the Latin version Veni, Emmanuel are obscure. It may have been composed as early as the 8th century. The melody appears to have originated in France in the 15th century. The hymn was translated into English by the Reverend John Mason Neale in the mid 19th century. The English version originally consisted of five verses, which began "Draw nigh, draw nigh, Emmanuel." Alternate versions of most of the verses and additional verses were composed later, and one can now find numerous versions of this hymn.

While the origins of the hymn and its development over time are interesting matters, they are not the reasons for the hymn's profundity. That rests on the subject matter. The hymn is based on a prophecy in Isaiah 7, a prophecy that looks forward to the birth of a child who will be named Immanuel, which means "God with us." In Eden, God had been present with mankind, but as a result of the Fall, man was exiled from God's presence. From that point forward, the restoration of God's presence with man becomes a major theme that is developed throughout Scripture.

God chooses Israel as the people through whom He will reestablish His presence with man, and this begins in earnest with the construction of the tabernacle in the wilderness and later the temple in Jerusalem. God dwells in the midst of His holy people, but only the high priest is allowed into God's direct presence and that only once a year.



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# CHRISTMAS CAROLS: O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

Keith Mathison - Ligonier.org

At the time of the exile, Ezekiel sees God's presence depart from the temple as a result of the people's sin, but he and the other prophets look forward to a time when God will restore His presence with His people in a way that transcends the temple built with hands. Isaiah's prophecy of the child called Immanuel hints at this.

And then, in the fullness of time, Jesus is born, and Matthew tells us that His birth took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken through the prophet Isaiah (Matt. 1:23). Jesus is Immanuel. He is God with us. In Him all of the Old Testament types and promises that looked forward to the restoration of God's presence with His people are fulfilled. Jesus is the Son of God incarnate.

The words of the hymn express the hopes of Israel throughout her history for the fulfillment of Isaiah's promise. We as Christians can now look back to the fulfillment of those promises – to the most incredible, awe-inspiring moment in history, the birth of Immanuel, the incarnation of the Son of God Himself. In Jesus God established His presence once again with His people, and He is with us always – to the end of the age. Rejoice!

## Emmanuel – God is with us.

*Blessed Christmas!*



*For unto you  
is born this day,  
in the city of David,  
a Saviour,  
which is  
Christ the Lord.*

*Luke 2:11*

