



MESSAGE: CHARLIE MENG

MUSIC: SHAWN HOELSCH

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## The Glory of the Incarnation: Peace Through Believing

NOTES:

### God Promised to Establish Peace

**Is. 9:6** *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

### God Fulfilled that Promise Through the Sending of His Son

**Luke 2:8** *And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"*

### God's Son Now Reigns over a Kingdom Characterized by Peace

**Col. 1:15** *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him...19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*

### God Delightfully Extends this Peace to Those Who Trust Him

#### 1. Peace is granted to those who please God.

**Luke 2:14** *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"*

## 2. We please God when we place our trust in him.

**Heb. 11:6** *And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*

## 3. We trust him by actively believing in the work of his son.

**Rom. 5:1** *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Rom. 15:13** *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

### God Now Calls Us to Be His Ambassadors of Peace

**2 Cor. 5:18** *All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.*

#### Review/Discuss/Apply:

- 1) Take time this week to reflect on all that God has done for you in sending Jesus into the world. You have peace with God! Write a psalm or note of gratitude as you marvel in his kindness.
- 2) Identify circumstances in your life that rob you of peace. Bring those before God. Draw near to him in your difficulty. How can you develop a quick and proper response when anxiety and stress begin to mount?
- 3) Who in your life desperately needs the peace that only God can provide? Pray for them this week and ask God for opportunity to be an ambassador of his peace to them.

#### SONGS

*WHAT CHILD IS THIS  
SILENT NIGHT  
O HOLY NIGHT  
BEHOLD*

#### BUDGET

Giving Last Week: \$77,382.86  
Weekly Need: \$38,322.00

YTD Giving: \$1,720,881.57  
YTD General Need: \$1,916,100.00

Altamont Expansion Fund (12/18): \$201,688.98

#### COMMUNICATION & GIVING

Envelopes for financial gifts, prayer requests, & communication to our church leadership are in the seatback pockets. Please pass the envelopes to the ushers or deposit them in the offering boxes by the exit doors. Thank you!

#### JOIN THE VBC FAMILY ROSTER

