
PRESIDENT'S PAGE

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Leaping into Christmas!

Four hundred years before Christmas, God sends Malachi to proclaim to God's people, "I have loved you!"

The people question God's love. Meanwhile, the priests are offering blemished sacrifices to God and saying the Lord's table is no big deal. The people are marrying spouses who don't follow God and then divorcing them. And people are wearing God out by claiming He approves of evil and that He's not around anyway and that they never benefit from serving the Lord.

Yet there are the few faithful, those "who fear the Lord." They speak to each other and remember God's Name. "They shall be Mine," says the Lord of hosts, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession."

And then God gives Malachi gracious words! "For you who fear My Name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall." Then God promises to send a new Elijah (John the Baptist) before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. CHRISTMAS!

Christmas, Jesus is born! God has loved us! Sure, there's plenty of unfaithfulness to God and to each other going around today, just like in Malachi's day. How does God respond? HE IS FAITHFUL! He keeps all His promises! Here is JESUS! Born among cattle in Bethlehem.

Look at Nicole and Shelley and Kate leaping for joy! Of course they are—Jesus is born! God has loved us! Jesus is perfect love. Jesus is perfect sacrifice. Jesus is a very big deal Lord's table. Jesus is the faithful Groom for His bride, the church. Jesus is God who gives Himself into evil's hands to be abused and crucified in our place. Jesus is our ever-with-us Savior. Jesus is our Gracious Master who protects and rewards His servants now and into days of eternity. Jesus declares that you are His. Jesus calls you "His treasured possession."



So here we are, leaping into Christmas. Jesus is born!

As angels sing,
Pastor Paul Egger
President, Iowa District West