

The Invitation

**Fill out a pew card with a prayer request
Put them in the Offering Plate**

**Come at 6:30pm
Dec. 8**

The House of Prayer

**Join in
The Word
Confession
And Prayer
Be a Nehemiah**

Prepare the Way; He is Near

The Discipline of Waiting Lk.1:1-25

- Too much Christmas hustle and bustle – but on the 1st Christmas everyone was going home.
- Too many presents and things, but we like giving and receiving.
- Too many feel good Christmas stories, but there were lots of stories about God's intervention – only not currently!
- None of us like learning the spiritual discipline of watching and waiting.
- All of us prefer to make life fun and easy one great big Christmas Story.

Spiritual Discipline

- **Activity undertaken to bring us into more effective cooperation with Christ and his Kingdom**
- **Harnessing and channeling more grace down to us and out through us without harming ourselves and others.**
- **Maybe our concerns over Christmas are misplaced. The problem is not the world interpreting Christmas as best they know how, but we Christians not interpreting Christmas as best we know how!**
- **Except our righteousness EXCEED the complaints we have for them, they will not care about our Christmas for Jesus.**

Watching and Waiting and Christmas

Luke 1:1-25

Zechariah and Elizabeth – served God patiently and faithfully even when life did not go their way.

Upright and faithful in the priestly line

No kids, tasks in the Temple by lot

Angel: You will have a son.

Zechariah: You sure? We're pretty old.

Angel: Shook you up and still you question? Ok no more questions for you!

People waiting outside getting nervous. Pull him out?

Finishes his lot, goes home mute, Elizabeth soon with child.

Now waiting takes on a highly charged new meaning!

Watching and Waiting and Christmas

Mary and Joseph Luke 1: 26-38

Angel: Don't be afraid Mary you have found favor with God

Mary: Greatly troubled!!!

Angel: You'll be with child.

Mary: Wait. Age isn't my problem. I am pure of heart and body.

Angel: I know. The same creative Spirit that hovered over the face of the deep will hover over your life and create life again.

Nothing is impossible for the creator God!

Mary: I agree that is true. Do the work of the Spirit of God as you told me.

Out of watching and waiting in obedience comes the timing of God for incredible change and powerful answers.

Watching and Waiting and the End John 14:1-6

- **When watching and waiting don't work as expected.**
- **The anticipated Kingdom seems snuffed out.**
- **You know the "way" don't you?**
- **God sets up an offer to find his bride.**
- **The bridegroom comes and offers the bread and the cup.**
- **The Bride refuses or accepts.**
- **The Bridegroom goes to prepare a place.**
- **It is the Father who says, "It is ready get your Bride."**
- **The Bridegroom is the way to the new home/relationship.**

Prepare the Way He is Near

- Don't LET your heart be troubled – trust in God trust also in Me.
- I'm going away – for you. I'm coming again – for you.
- You know the way – I AM
- Matt. 25:1-13. The Bridegroom has sent word.
- The Bride's bridal party has assembled.
- This party is dependent upon the oil of the Spirit. It cannot be given one to another. Without the Holy Spirit we are UNKNOWN, unable to enter.
- Keep watching. You know he is coming. No excuses.



IS YOUR



**SPIRIT
ALIVE**



IN CHRIST?



Watching



And

