

### *Into This World . . . A Savior!*

The civilized world is basically stable and at peace. Sure, there may be disturbances from time to time, but it's really out on the fringes where there are wars and rumors of war. Those fringes are tough places to live, regions marked by poverty, relatively short life expectancies, minimal education, low to nonexistent literacy rates, and so many other measures that would indicate a lower quality of life. Meanwhile, the civilized portions of the world enjoy the benefits of peace, and wealth, and power. Education is available to many. People busy themselves with various shows, public sporting events, and other kinds of entertainment that nearly everyone can see. The government provides food and other handouts to those who don't have a job.

Still, the dissatisfaction that breeds violence and war at the fringes of the world is also being felt in the civilized areas of the world. People crave something more, something of substance, something that brings meaning to everyday life. They know something is missing, but they can't seem to figure out what it is or where to find it. So instead, they use their time and resources to fill up every nook and cranny of their homes and lives with everything they can get their hands on.

It may sound like I'm describing the world today, but these same words also describe the Roman Empire of two thousand years ago. Oddly enough, they also had the problem of barbarians attacking settlements in Northern Europe and nearly perpetual uprisings in the Middle East. (King Solomon was right: "there is nothing new under the sun." Ecclesiastes 1:9)

Yet it was into that world—into *this* world—that God the Father sent his Son, Jesus.

Jesus was born in human flesh to fill the void in our lives with the one thing that we have been missing all along: a proper relationship with God. Through Jesus' birth, life, suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus brought forgiveness and restoration, new life and eternal salvation. Jesus has brought hope to a hopeless world: a hope that is not for a few, but for all; a hope that is not simply for life in this world, but for life in the age to come.

Soon, we'll be celebrating the birth of Jesus once again. Unfortunately, by the time we get to Christmas, we may already be weary of it. We may be so buried under the pile of stuff that the world pushes upon us, stuff that really has very little to do with the real story, that we might not even be able to see Jesus. The reality of Christmas may be pushed so far away, it may seem like little more than a fairy tale.

But this is no fairytale. It really happened. Jesus, the Son of God, was born in human flesh, born into a world very much like ours. And this world, our world, still needs this Savior.

So as we move through this Advent season and draw near to Christmas, we do so preparing to celebrate the coming of our Savior. We remember His First Coming, two thousand years ago on the fringes of the Roman Empire, and give thanks to God for sending Him. Our Savior sustains us in this world as we also look forward to His Second Coming, and wait in faith and hope for His promises to be fulfilled!

Come, prepare and celebrate with us!

We will have three *Wednesday Advent Services* this year (at **6:00p.m.** with supper to follow):

December 2 at St John's, Dancy

December 9<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul's, Junction City, and

December 16<sup>th</sup> at St. John's, Dancy

***Christmas Eve Service at St. John's – 7:00p.m.***

***Christmas Day Services: St. John's at 8:30am,***

***St. Paul's 10:30a.m.***