

BEAR BULLETIN

• BEAR CREEK CHURCH •

BCC News



NOV 27, 2016

Hope: From Luke's Gospel

What is hope? Modern culture tells us it is a "maybe," a kind of unsure optimism. But in Scripture, hope is an indication of certainty. "Hope" means "a strong and confident expectation."

Advent is the time of year when the church prepares for the celebration of the birth of Christ so long ago, while anticipating His return. To help us in our worship, we light Advent candles to represent themes of this season. The Advent candles and readings focus on four things that God gives to us through his Son's birth: hope, peace, love, and joy. The season of Advent ends on Christmas Eve with the lighting of the Christ candle to celebrate this child, this gift, this salvation that God promised and delivered to His children.



The Israelites were hoping for a savior, their messiah. God had promised a messiah and they believed it. They didn't know when or who, but they were waiting.

Zechariah was a Levite in the nation of Israel. He worked in the temple and was a God-fearing man. He and his wife, Elizabeth, were childless in a culture where children were considered to be a sign of God's blessing. Zechariah had prayed and prayed to God, asking for a child, but God had not sent one. As Zechariah stood in the Holy of Holies that day, preparing to offer the sacrifices for the people, an angel appeared to him with a message from God:

Fear not, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son. You are to name him John. He will be a joy and delight to you and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord his God. He is never to take wine or fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. And he will go before the Lord to make ready a people.

But when Zechariah heard Gabriel's words, his first reaction was not hope. It was doubt. He asked the angel, "But how can this be? I am an old man!"

The angel responded, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news."

Elizabeth did become pregnant, and Zechariah found himself wholeheartedly living in hope, in confident expectation that God would give him a son and that the long-awaited Messiah was soon to follow.

Today we too can live with Zechariah's hope. We can live with the certainty and the confident expectation that Christ not only came to this world as a baby so long ago, but he will return and everything that God has promised will come true. What hope!



BEAR CREEK CHURCH,
MEDFORD OREGON



WWW.BEARCREEKCHURCH.ORG
BEARCREEKCHURCH.ORG@GMAIL.COM



BEAR CREEK CHURCH
P. O. BOX 4732
MEDFORD, OR 97501

GIVE A GIFT: It's time once again to do our Bear Creek Church Jesus-reflecting thing and shop for gifts for residents of Weaver House, a residence for adults with disabilities run by Living Opportunities. Find a gift suggestion on the little Christmas tree in the hallway, go shopping and have it back by Sunday, Dec. 11. With questions contact Anne Meador at almeador@aol.com. And thanks!

THE LADIES PRAYER FELLOWSHIP will be on Thursday December 1st at 1:00. We will be meeting at Pat Wilcox's home - 849 Keith Ave., Medford. All are welcome and we would love to have you join us for good fellowship and a great time of prayer. For questions or directions please call Pat at 541-951-3751.



Experience 1st-Century Bethlehem
at the Jackson County Expo in Central Point
Friday, Dec. 9th from 6pm – 9pm
Saturday, Dec. 10th & Sunday, Dec. 11th from 5pm-8pm
Free performances begin every half hour. After your journey to Bethlehem, enjoy crafts for the kids, warm drinks, treats and music in the Mace Building. Don't miss the experience! You'll be guided through events leading up to the birth of Christ. For more information, go to www.RogueValleyLiveNativity.org

CHRISTMAS CAROLING with the Weeks Family: "Join us for a night of Christmas caroling and spreading God's love throughout our neighborhood. We will start at 6:00 and then come back to our house at about 7:30 -8:00 for fellowship and maybe some worship around the fire pit. Smores, coffee and sharing Christmas memories are usually what happens." Contact Charlie at either charliepweeks@gmail.com, or 541-778-7261.

FELLOWSHIP NIGHT FOR LADIES 13-25: Every first Sunday of the month at 6:30pm Anne Meador will host a great opportunity for fellowship, with games and activities. Call Anne at (541) 261-6919 if you have any questions

SINGLES GROUP ON TUESDAYS: The singles group is meeting in the conference room at Jackson Creek Pizza, 317 E Main St, Medford. An excellent opportunity to meet and discuss the goodness of a biblical understanding of singleness. For more information, contact Daniel Gutfeld at either 707-319-5475 or danielgutfeld1@gmail.com.

WANTING TO SERVE? Contact us at ServeBCC@GMAIL.COM

See www.bearcreekchurch.org for a list of our current small group opportunities

UPCOMING

Jan 13 Women's Game Night: A fun opportunity to get to know others in a casual atmosphere. Details to come.
Jun 29-Jul 3, 2017 BCC Campout