

December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

“All About that Baby”

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Advent 3 Children’s Christmas Service

Vicar Miguel Gonzalez-Feliciano

Grace, mercy, and peace are yours from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:**

**[Hope]**

It was a night to remember wasn’t it? A night that changed the course of history. Hope was born into a world that desperately needed it.

Hope.

It’s something that we think we can understand. But I find it can be hard to describe what hope is exactly. Hope is one of those things you feel more than you could ever possibly understand.

What about you and I?

**[A Hopeless World]**

“Hopeful about what?” you might ask. Weekly, I find that I come to worship because I know that I should be here. It is good for you and I to receive the gifts of God and to be reminded that you and I have been made children of God. Because in the world, you hear many other things.

“I’m sorry, but we’re going to have to let you go.”

“I’m sorry I don’t have a better diagnosis.”

“There has been another school shooting.”

The world that you and I live in is full of sin and tragedy. Even during this season, “the most wonderful time of the year”, darkness seems to be looming in the background. For some people, this is the darkest time of the year.

**[That We may Eat it and Die]**

I’m reminded of a widow.

This widow didn’t have much. In fact, one night she was out gathering sticks. She might have looked like any other person in the world. But she was preparing her last meal. The last meal she was planning on sharing with her son. While she was

out gathering sticks, she met a man who told her to bring her water to drink and bread to eat. She told him about her lack, further she told the man, “Now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.”

How hopeless.

**[More than a Man]**

What she didn't know was that this man was Elijah. This man was sent by God and he was sent into a place of deep despair and pain, a pit of hopelessness where he was meant to be a light of hope. The hope of life.

A man was sent to us.

But more than just a man.

Jesus the Christ.

This is what it means to be a Christian. To hold onto the Hope of all nations, the Prince of Peace, even in the midst of all the sin and the darkness and despair that is in the world today. Christians are the people who proclaim:

I believe that a baby changed the world! I believe that shepherds shared His love! I believe that a star stayed in place, to show foreign kings that He is the King.

The King who brings peace, gives hope, and shows hospitality. Because the King shines a light into our darkness and offers us the best he has to offer. He has redeemed you and me.

A Savior was born that day, the Hope of the world.

Today, and throughout all of Advent,

it is still all about that Baby.

So be it. Amen.

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As followers of Christ, “Keep loving one another earnestly

And show hospitality to one another without grumbling.” AMEN! (1Pt 4:8-9)

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