



MOUNTAIN STREAM NEWS

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MAKE ROOM!

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



*Luke 2:7
"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn"*

When Jesus was born on earth, he was forced to be laid in a feeding box for animals in a barn! The God of the universe came to the earth He created and the only shelter that could be found for Him was among the animals. How could this have happened?

The Bible does not give us any details about the innkeeper who could only find space in his barn for Christ. I do not believe he was a cruel, greedy or irreligious man. I do not believe he meant any harm. He just fell victim to two unfortunate circumstances. The first was a crisis of space. There was no room in Bethlehem that night. The impe-

rial census – which he hadn't called by the way – had caused Bethlehem to be overrun with visitors. Space was at a premium, and some people would be left on the fringes. Circumstances still continue to challenge us in our relationship with Christ today. We become so busy that we do not have time (so we think) to invest in our relationship with Him. There is money to be earned to pay that next bill. There is time to be allotted to help the children with their homework. There is this project that has to be done right now. There is that vacation that needs to be taken...

Whatever it is for you, there are things which crowd into our lives and demand our attention. Some of them may not even be of our making, but we still have to deal with them.

A second reality that compounds the issue is the simplicity with which Christ comes to us. Christ comes to us in such a humble way that many of us miss His working in our lives. Even with the pressing crowd in Bethlehem that night, how do you think the innkeeper would have reacted if he had known that that weary, pregnant lady was carrying Israel's Messiah, and the God

of the universe? Do you think he would have made room somehow? I think so. Even if it was only for the bragging rights. Can you imagine later being able to say the Messiah was born in this inn. In this room. In this very bed! But much more than that, I think respect for his Maker would have caused him to find not just a room, but the best room. Maybe even his own room! Alas he did not recognize his God and therefore treated Him with contempt.

We too don't always recognize Jesus for who He is. He is not an interloper begging for space. He is not an inconvenience intruding into our lives.

He is our Creator. He has every right to lay claim upon us.

He is your Redeemer. He has come to restore us to our original purpose.

He is our Lord. He has come to claim Him rightful throne.

Make room!

God bless you,

Pastor James

THE BEST GIFT, GOD WITH US!



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

<p>CORPORATE PRAYER TUE @ 7 PM</p> <p>December 22 Join us via Zoom video Please contact Pastor James for log on information at rcantio@gmail.com</p>	<p>MONTHLY EVENING SERVICE EVERY 3RD SUN @ 6 PM</p> <p>January 17 Please contact us by phone (570 856 3310) or email (mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com or rcantio@gmail.com) for login information.</p>	<p>WORSHIP SERVICE SUN @ 11 AM</p> <p>December 27 In-person service and livestream. Livestreaming only on Facebook and our church's website.</p>
<p>QUICK TIPS</p> <p>Two ways to give your offering. Traditional with a check by mail or through our secured website online giving is now possible. Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes. Thank you!</p>	<p>YOUTH GROUP FRI @ 6:45 PM</p> <p>Due to Christmas and New Year's holidays meetings are CANCELED for Dec 25 and Jan 1 Next meeting January 8</p>	<p>VIRTUAL KIDZONE SUN @ 4 PM</p> <p>December 27 Kidzone is available every Sunday. Contact Candice at candicebrich@gmail.com for log on information.</p>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please pray for the Hyatt/Ditaranto family as they mourn the passing of Bill on Saturday night.
- Virtual Ladies Meeting this Saturday @ 10:30 am. Contact Candice for login info.
- There will be no Christmas Eve Service this year.
- New Year's Eve Service will be on Zoom.
- Please continue to pray for the DeConti family as they mourn the loss of Ralph, their husband and father.
- We are excited to have you at our in-person worship at 11 am on Sundays. Please call ahead to 570 856 3310 or email us at mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com to let us know you are coming.
- Please see our webpage for detailed information on in-person gatherings.
- **Have a very Blessed Christmas**