

Check out the service at www.fpcd.org.

The choir sang, “*In the first light of a new day, no one knew he had arrived.*”
Have you ever had a guest you were not expecting?

My most unexpected guest was my first child, who was born around ten days before he was due, and it all came about so suddenly that I informed my family only after he had arrived. This was long before the days of cell phones.

It was a surprise arrival; ahead of schedule.

What am I supposed to do, my mother said. She had planned to come help me but would have to change her plans; check her schedule with her boss; make arrangements for the dog.

But, wild horses could not have stopped her from coming to see this first newborn grandson. She accepted the sudden change and embraced the joy.

A friend’s daughter became pregnant shortly after graduating from high school. Even though she lived with her parents, she hid the pregnancy until she was eight months along. This was certainly a guest they were not expecting.

Someone drops in on you at dinnertime. They want to show you their young child, who they’ve brought with them—in fact, a baby. Do you invite them to join you for dinner?

In the first light of a new day, no one knew he had arrived. Things continued as they had been while a newborn softly cried. But the heavens wrapped in wonder knew the meaning of His birth. In the weakness of a baby they knew God had come to earth.

So what did heaven do?

They broke through and shared the Good News! By star or angel—whatever it takes—we are going to proclaim the news!

They went to whoever was available. They went to the closest people nearby—shepherds! Talk about inconvenient to leave those wandering sheep in the middle of the night and search for a baby in a cow’s stall.

And then wise men, whom had to have an early announcement to give them time to travel and find this young king.

How much time would you take to find this royal baby born in a manger?

How much interruption to your life would you allow?

- ✓ Would you share a meal unexpectedly?
- ✓ Embrace a single mother who had turned to no one because she was afraid?
- ✓ Would you interrupt your work schedule to accommodate God’s arrival?

The beauty of this story is, despite the fact that it was hoped for yet surprising, the certainty of God's coming to us and the faithfulness of God's plan being enacted; unexpected perhaps—but nevertheless, **sure**.

Yet, the birth has to happen not just there in a remote village many years ago, but it has to happen every day since. It has to happen in you. Jesus must also be born in you and become King in you. Have you given Him the time? Have you made the room He needs and deserves in your life?

Let earth receive her king . . . (with open arms)
Let every heart prepare Him room . . . (even when not convenient)

Then each one of us shall "*repeat the sounding joy*," that is, each one of us act as the angel that proclaims this joyful message to all those who need it. To young mothers who are afraid, to strangers and friends who knock on our doors at inconvenient times, and to those in crisis or loneliness until that whole world has heard.

Joy to the World, the Lord has come. Is that your song?

AMEN

Isaiah 12 NLT

In that day you will sing: "I will praise you, O LORD! You were angry with me, but not anymore. Now you comfort me. ² See, God has come to save me. I will trust in him and not be afraid. The LORD GOD is my strength and my song; he has given me victory." ³ With joy you will drink deeply from the fountain of salvation! ⁴ In that wonderful day you will sing: "Thank the LORD! Praise his name! Tell the nations what he has done. Let them know how mighty he is! ⁵ Sing to the LORD, for he has done wonderful things. Make known his praise around the world. ⁶ Let all the people of Jerusalem shout his praise with joy! For great is the Holy One of Israel who lives among you."