

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of December 25, 2016

In the Flesh

The following is from the final Advent devotional in “From Heaven Above” by Michael Hoy (available in the Fireside Room).

READ: And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. *John 1:14*

REFLECT: No longer some distant Word, that Word takes on our flesh and blood. The birth of Jesus is the birth of Life with us.

The glory of God comes when all humanity and all of creation are taken up in the body of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In a Christmas poem I had written to a friend, I shared these words:

It’s not only to say that you’re never alone,
It’s that God makes your own smelly stalls his own home;
So when life seems hopeless, when burdens seem great,
When there’s terror and sickness and nothing but hate,
There’s Someone who loves you still all the while,
And gives you, God’s dear child, a reason to smile.

Five hundred years ago, the Reformation came to life in a time of darkness and threatening dangers. Has that really changes all that much? Yet Luther and his family sang of the gift from heaven above:

To you this night is born a child of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth shall be the joy of all the earth.

PRAY: *Thank you, Heavenly Gift, for blessing us with your presence. Amen.*

ADDITIONAL PRAYER PROMPTS

- Use the Pause to Pray as a guide to focus on other concerns through the week. Copies can be found in the lobby and in the Archive section on the website (evbapt.org/archive). The full Pause to Pray is used in our Wednesday prayer time. An abbreviated version appears in the Sunday bulletin.
- Reflect on this week’s worship service—the music, Scripture, Pastor Dave’s message* “If He Had Not Come” (Galatians 4:4)—that all will help as you go through this week; for your own walk with Christ, and that you may be a blessing and witness to people you have contact with during the week.
- Continue to pray for opportunities to invite people to our services and to become engaged in spiritual discovery with the people of Evangel in other ways as well. Ask the Lord to open doors of conversation, connection and compassion with others to enable that engagement this week.
- Pray that God will bless our succession planning efforts. Pray for the Lord’s blessing on the Negotiating Team as it works with a church in Wheaton that made an offer to purchase our property (we plan to use the proceeds to establish an Evangel Missions Legacy Fund to continue our commitment to missions for 8-10 years or more). After several meetings and counter-offers, we hope to bring the overall Terms of sale for membership approval by the end of January or early February. After that, we can move on to a detailed sale Contract. Pray for wisdom and continued evidence of God’s providence in this process.

** A podcast of the sermon and PDF files of other material will be posted on the website by Monday.*

Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday, posted on the website (evbapt.org), with printed copies available in the lobby. To be included in the weekly e-mail, use the Contact Us form on the website and request “add me to the Prayer Vigil list.”