

Faith Schierholt

For Sunday, December 24th "Swaddled in Love"

Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7 – *NIV*

² The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

³ You have enlarged the nation
and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice
when dividing the plunder.

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.

Luke 2:1-7 – *NIV*

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Galatians 4:4-7 – NIV

⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶ Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Takeaway: Advent reminds us to examine our hearts as we approach the celebration of Christmas.

Questions:

1. What does it mean to you that the Isaiah prophecy and the birth story of Jesus agree?
2. Have you been able to connect Christmas with Easter in your mind? Why or why not?
Tell more.

Sermons: <https://podcast.wpcwestlake.org/services/mp3/sermon20221224.mp3>

Service Video Family: <https://youtu.be/m9P8g-9AErQ>

Service Video Candlelight: <https://youtu.be/qWQbG4zSQRw>

Service Video Christmas Day: <https://youtu.be/zLWTxPgUXSA>