

St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

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December, 2022

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church

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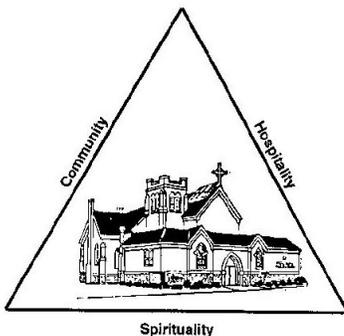
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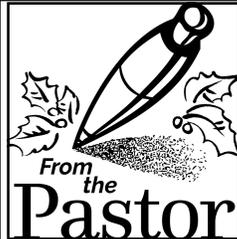
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December and the end of 2022, every year it catches me by surprise how quickly each year flies by. What will you remember about 2022? I will remember this year as one of those years in which we lived through a lot of loss, and going through the Christmas Season without people we love, is sometimes very difficult. We do it though, because we are assured of their presence with Christ and our assurance, we will be with them again. What joy it brings, in the midst of sadness, as I think of the gift God has given us in Jesus Christ. We celebrate Christmas by remembering the story of the Child born to a poor couple far from home with nowhere to lay their heads on the very first Christmas. I hope you will join me during Advent as we prepare for the coming of Christ the King, the Lion of Judah who fights for us, loves us, free us from sin, and calls us daughters and sons, adopted into the greatest family. No matter what is happening, know that Jesus came, so we never need to be alone again. God with us (Emmanuel), so good or bad, this Christmas we will count on Christ, our Savior, to be with us.

I hope you will join me as we celebrate again, everything to be found as we look with fresh eyes at the Advent season. We have already celebrated **Hope** by standing and declaring to the world that Jesus is our Hope. We will also look at Christ who brings **Peace**, which passes all understanding, **Joy** in the knowledge that Christ has taken away judgment against us, and God's **Love** for us, which is so great, that no price is too high to pay for our sins.

This Christmas Eve, we will once again celebrate Jesus, the **Light** of the world, and you are invited to participate in our traditional Candlelight Service. I am also looking forward in to the last 4 Sundays of January, when we will look at some of the cornerstones of the church. "Women of Faith Series" this year will focus once again on some of the great women of the Bible. Only one month to go, and 2023 will be here. Until then, I'll see you in the mission field.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul



Thought for the Month:

The good news of great joy changed the course of every silent night to come.
—Alicia Bruxvoort



December 4
Coins for Communion
to benefit LifeWise Academy
Acts Sunnydale House

Acts Sunnydale House

The LifeWise Academy's Sunnydale House is next to the new Elida Elementary School. This mission gives the option for elementary school students in Elida to attend a faith-based class in building character and in Bible study for an hour a week.

Hat and Mitten Christmas Tree.

St. Paul's special Christmas tree for hats, mittens and scarves will be delivered to Our Daily Bread, Samaritan House and Lima Rescue Mission. These items will help to keep those less fortunate stay warm this winter.

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Newsletter
 deadline:
 the **20th**
 of each month

Christian Symbol

CANDLE



The candle symbolizes Jesus being the light of the world (John 8:12), as well as his call for Christians to be lights (Matthew 5:14). Candles play a prominent role in the Christmas season. Each candle on an Advent wreath has a special meaning. Many churches have a candlelight worship service on Christmas Eve, often at midnight.

St. Paul's Epistle	
is published by St. Paul's United Methodist Church	
Subscription Rate: NONE	
Secretary	Gail Fessler
Organist	Linda Holman
Pianist	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Judy Chaffins
Custodian	Dave Decker

**Crafty Creatures
Candy Sales**

Pick up: Saturday, December 10
10-noon in the Fellowship Hall

Thank you all for supporting the Crafty Creatures mission!

**December 11
Food pantry**

Items Needed:

Non-perishable food items and
Personal hygiene items

Items taken to the 5 Loaves Food Pantry
at The Church at Allentown.



December 21st



**New Years Eve
December 31**



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

**December 4
2nd Sunday of
Advent**



**December 24
Christmas Eve
Gathering Music
9:30 PM
Candlelight Service
10:00 PM**

**December 11
3rd Sunday of
Advent**

**December 18
4th Sunday of
Advent**



**The St. Paul's Special Christmas offering will be
designated for the following missions:**

1/2 to UMCOR - U. S. Disaster Response and
1/2 to LifeWise Academy, Acts Sunnydale House

Prayer

Always Begin Again

By Corinne Piper

Over the past year, I have given ideas for ways of keeping focused while praying for those of us who get a little antsy just sitting. Technology-assisted prayers, prayer walking, praying with beads, praying in color, mandalas, praying with our bodies and hands, casting prayers, and journaling are all ways to get your body involved in an activity and allowing your mind to think without distraction. There are many variations to these forms which allow for prayer in different places and situations. I have tried all of them and found they helped me empty my mind and listen for God.

I must be very truthful, though. I have done a really bad job praying this year. Even though I know ways to pray, I haven't made the time to pray. I have allowed activity, messiness (really, I can't find my devotional books), social media, and emotional ups and downs to keep me from focusing on praying.

One book about prayer that has actually stayed in my head is about St. Benedict, the founder of Benedictine monasteries. He wrote a group of "Rules" for his monks to live by that combined worship, work, and leisure. The part that returns to me when I fail in my attempts at discipline is "Always Begin Again."

If during this year, you have not practiced spiritual disciplines as you would have liked, remember that our God is a God of Grace who knows that our spirits are willing, but our bodies are weak. He welcomes us back each time we start over. We may not succeed in praying on a routine basis, but we can always begin again and know that God is waiting to sit and talk with us. Keep the faith and keep praying.

Advent Prayer

Henri J.M. Nouwen

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness,
Send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We have so much to do,
Seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things
Look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways
Long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We who hearts are heavy
Seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people,
Walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"
Amen.

Hymn History

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

"Then Sings My Soul" Book 2, By Robert J. Morgan

1864

Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. Psalm 121:4 (NKJV)

The famous Longfellow brothers were born and raised in Portland, Maine, in the 1800s. Henry Wadsworth was born in 1807, and younger brother Samuel arrived in 1819. Henry became a Harvard professor of literature and one of America's greatest writers, and Samuel became a Unitarian minister and a hymnist.

While Henry was publishing his books, however, dark clouds were gathering over his life and over all America. In 1861 his wife tragically died when her dress caught fire in their home in Cambridge, Massachusetts. That same year, the Civil War broke out, tearing the nation apart. Two years later, during the fiercest days of the conflict, Henry's son, Charley, seventeen, ran away from home and hopped aboard a train to join President Lincoln's army.

Charley proved to be a brave popular soldier. He saw action at the Battle of Chancellorsville in 1863, but in early June he contracted typhoid fever and malaria and was sent home to recover. He missed the Battle of Gettysburg, but by August, Charley was well enough to return to the field. On November 27, during the Battle of New Hope Church in Virginia, he was shot through the left shoulder. The bullet nicked his spine and came close to paralyzing him. He was carried into the church and later taken to Washington to recuperate.

Receiving the news on December 1, 1863, Henry left immediately for Washington. He found his son well enough to travel and they headed back to Cambridge, arriving home on December 8. For weeks Henry sat by his son's bedside, slowly nursing his boy back to health.

On Christmas Day, December 25, 1863, Henry gave vent to his feelings in this plaintive carol that can only be understood against the backdrop of war. Two stanzas now omitted from most hymnals speak of the cannons thundering in the South and of hatred tearing apart "the hearth-stones of a continent." The poet feels like dropping his head in despair, but then he hears the Christmas Bells. Their triumphant pealing reminds him that "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep."

The Sunday school children of the Unitarian Church of the Disciples in Boston first sang this song during that year's Christmas celebration. How wonderful that such a song should emerge from the bloody clouds of the War Between the States.

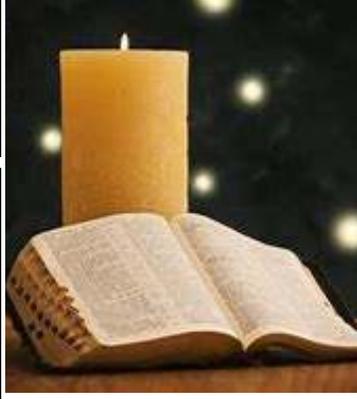


Advent Readings



1 Luke 1:1-4	2 John 1:1-5, 18	3 John 1:1-5, 18	4 Isaiah 9:6-7 & 11:1-5	5 Micah 5:2-4
6 Matthew 1:1-17	7 Luke 1:5-25	8 Luke 1:26-38	9 Luke 1:39-45	10 Luke 1:46-56
11 Luke 1:57-66	12 Luke 1:67-80	13 Luke 2:1-7	14 Matthew 1:18-25	15 Luke 2:8-21
16 Matthew 2:1-12	17 Luke 2:22-40	18 Matthew 2:13-15	19 Matthew 2:16-18	20 Matthew 2:19-23
21 John 1:6-8, 15	22 John 1:9-14	23 John 1:16-17	24 Isaiah 52:13-53:12	25 Revelation 21:1-8

2023 Weekly Bible Reading (Weeks 1—26)

WEEK 1: Creation ○ Genesis 1 & 2 ○ Psalm 33:6-9 ○ Jeremiah 32:17 ○ John 1:1-5 ○ Romans 1:20	WEEK 8: Praise ○ Psalm 96 ○ Exodus 15:2 ○ Psalm 71:14-16 ○ Luke 1:46-55 ○ Hebrews 13:15	WEEK 15: God's Word ○ Psalm 119:9-16, 103-105, 114, 129-131 ○ Isaiah 40:8 ○ Romans 1:16-17 ○ 2 Timothy 3:16-17 ○ Hebrews 4:12	WEEK 22: Friendship ○ Ruth 1:1-18 ○ 1 Samuel 18:1-5 ○ Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 ○ Proverbs 18:24 ○ John 15:12-15
WEEK 2: Sin & Solution ○ Genesis 3 ○ Psalm 51:3-5 ○ Isaiah 53:5-12 ○ John 3:16-18 ○ Romans 6:22-23	WEEK 9: Temptation ○ Luke 4:1-13 ○ Deuteronomy 8:2 ○ 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 ○ Hebrews 2:18 ○ James 1:2-4, 12-15	WEEK 16: One Body ○ 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 ○ Proverbs 27:17 ○ Acts 2:42-47 ○ Romans 12:1-8 ○ Ephesians 4:11-13	WEEK 23: Salvation ○ Acts 16:22-34 ○ 2 Samuel 22:1-4 ○ Psalm 37:39-40 ○ Acts 4:8-12 ○ 1 Peter 1:8-9
WEEK 3: Covenants & Promises ○ Psalm 105 ○ Genesis 9:12-17 ○ Genesis 12:1-3 ○ 2 Corinthians 1:20 ○ Hebrews 9:15	WEEK 10: Sacrifices ○ Hebrews 10:1-23 ○ Exodus 12:21-28 ○ Psalm 51:16-17 ○ Romans 12:1 ○ Hebrews 4:14-16	WEEK 17: Faith & Faithfulness ○ Hebrews 11 ○ Lamentations 3:22-23 ○ Mark 11:22-24 ○ Luke 16:10-12 ○ 2 Corinthians 5:7	WEEK 24: Baptism ○ Matthew 3 ○ Genesis 7:17-18 ○ 1 Peter 3:18-22, John 3:3-6 ○ Acts 2:38-39 ○ Romans 6:1-4
WEEK 4: God's Calling ○ Jeremiah 1:4-19 ○ Isaiah 6:8 ○ 1 Corinthians 7:17 ○ 2 Timothy 1:8-10 ○ 1 Peter 2:9-10	WEEK 11: Confession & Forgiveness ○ Psalm 51:1-12 ○ Proverbs 28:13 ○ Matthew 9:1-8 ○ Acts 3:19 ○ 1 John 1:8-9	WEEK 18: Father & Son ○ John 14:6-17, 23-24 ○ Psalm 2:6-7 ○ Matthew 11:25-27 ○ John 17:1-5 ○ Colossians 1:15-20	WEEK 25: Protection ○ Psalm 91 ○ Psalm 46:1-3, 7 ○ Isaiah 41:10 ○ Mark 4:35-41 ○ 2 Corinthians 4:7-10
WEEK 5: God's Commands ○ Genesis 3 ○ Psalm 51:3-5 ○ Isaiah 53:5-12 ○ John 3:16-18 ○ Romans 6:22-23	WEEK 12: Crucifixion ○ Luke 23:26-47 ○ Numbers 21:4-9 ○ Isaiah 53:3-10 ○ 1 Corinthians 1:18, 22-23 ○ Galatians 2:20-21	WEEK 19: Holy Spirit ○ Acts 2:1-21 ○ Joel 2:28-32 ○ Romans 8:26-27 ○ 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 ○ Galatians 5:16, 22-25	WEEK 26: Honesty & Truth ○ Acts 5:1-11 ○ Proverbs 12:22 ○ John 14:6 ○ Colossians 3:9-10 ○ 3 John 1:3-4
WEEK 6: Love ○ 1 Corinthians 13 ○ Isaiah 54:10 ○ Romans 8:35-39 ○ 1 Peter 4:8 ○ 1 John 4:7-12	WEEK 13: Resurrection ○ John 20:1-18 ○ Daniel 12:2-3 ○ John 11:25-26 ○ 1 Corinthians 15:20-22 ○ Philippians 3:10-11	WEEK 20: Worries ○ Matthew 6:25-34 ○ Psalm 94:19 ○ Matthew 11:28-30 ○ Philippians 4:6-7 ○ 1 Peter 5:6-7	
WEEK 7: Purpose & Plan ○ Ephesians 1:3-14 ○ Job 42:1-1-2 ○ Proverbs 19:21 ○ Jeremiah 29:10-13 ○ Romans 8:28-30	WEEK 14: Evangelism ○ Acts 8:26-40 ○ Deuteronomy 32:3-4 ○ Matthew 28:19-20 ○ Romans 10:10-17 ○ Colossians 4:2-6	WEEK 21: Prayer ○ Daniel 9 ○ 2 Chronicles 7:14 ○ Jeremiah 33:2-3 ○ Matthew 6:5-13 ○ James 5:13-16	

Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:	
October 30, 2022	92
November 6, 2022	77
November 13, 2022	82
November 20, 2022	65
November 27, 2022	62

Financial Giving
 Weekly Need for
 Unified Ministry Budget
 \$3,879.00



	Unified Ministry Giving:	Other:
October 30, 2022	\$2,365.00	\$383.48
November 6, 2022	\$18,590.00	\$3,455.68
November 13, 2022	\$1,446.00	\$100.00
November 20, 2022	\$2,075.00	\$77.00
November 27, 2022	\$2,050.00	\$175.00

Sunday School Attendance	
October 30, 2022	14
November 6, 2022	12
November 13, 2022	16
November 20, 2022	4
November 27, 2022	13

Hospitality Cart	
December 4, 2022	Rife Family
December 11, 2022	OPEN
December 18, 2022	Virginia Hollar
December 25, 2022	OPEN

Flower Calendar	
December 4, 2022	Dan & Margie Best
December 11, 2022	Cindy Swihart
December 18, 2022	Poinsettias
December 25, 2022	Poinsettias

2023 Altar Flowers

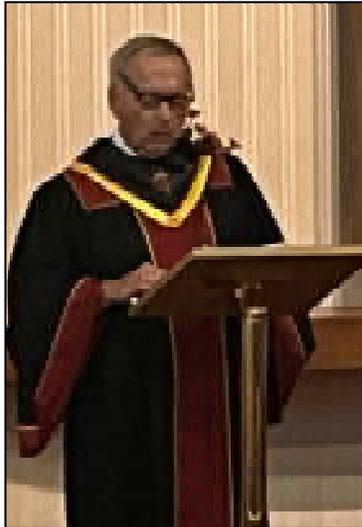
If you would like to sign up for Altar flowers for 2023 you may contact the church office at 419-339-3801 or e-mail, officeesp@gmail.com.

Or on Sunday mornings see Gail for the sign-up sheet.

All Saints Sunday

October 30, 2022

During Worship we remembered the many Saints that had passed with in this past year. The church bell was rung and an ornament was hung on a tree as the names of each Saint was read, at the end of the service the families took the ornament home. After the service a Homecoming Thanksgiving meal and fellowship with many shared memories.



Missions

Thank you to all St. Paul's congregation, T. D. Interiors employees, and others in the community who packed boxes for Samaritans Purse, Operation Christmas Child. **177 Boxes** are being sent around the world to touch the hearts and lives of many children and their families.



Thank You



Dear Church Members,
Just want to give so many thank yous to your church, Pastor, Jamie Wyant, and whoever put together the funds and the effort to rebuild my daughters ramp, way better job than anyone else has done.

Thank you very much,
Cynthia Sampson



Thank you to all who provided food for the Families being housed at Family Promise on Friday, November 18.
The next Family Promise mission is on January 27, 2023

Halloween



St. Paul's hot chocolate mission and trunk-or-treat mission on Halloween, was a success! Thanks to everyone who worked for these missions and for everyone who donated their trunks and their candy!



KIDZ KORNER



Share the good news of Jesus' birth in a creative way.



What you need:

- Newspaper
- Bible
- Smooth, clean stones
- Pencil
- Oil paint pens
- Adult help

What you do:

1. In a well-ventilated area, cover a work surface with newspaper.
2. Read Luke 2:1-20 and choose key people and places to draw.
3. In pencil, sketch one drawing on each stone.
4. Follow directions on paint pens to fill drawings with color. Let dry.
5. Hide stones for younger siblings to find, set out a new stone each day or order them in a row and tell the Nativity story.



Seeking the story

Angels joyfully announced a special arrival in Bethlehem at Christmas.

Directions: Find the words listed below. Then unscramble the intersecting letters to complete Luke 2:11, NIV.



WORD BANK

- Shepherds
- Child
- Nazareth
- Census
- Baby
- David
- Mary
- Travel
- Town
- Register
- Born
- Night

T	B	W	Y	A	Z	K	E	S	H	N	G	D	J	K
Q	O	Y	A	P	R	A	L	B	F	P	I	C	Q	L
N	R	W	X	B	E	Y	R	M	B	D	M	O	E	E
S	N	O	N	W	G	A	I	B	A	C	D	O	T	D
R	G	X	J	F	I	W	M	V	B	R	R	C	E	O
P	S	C	E	N	S	U	S	H	Y	U	Y	F	P	N
O	T	P	I	G	T	Q	C	N	T	G	M	U	S	T
O	A	N	D	B	E	C	H	I	L	D	N	Z	F	A
A	T	B	A	U	R	W	H	G	F	V	A	B	U	M
T	R	A	V	E	L	J	C	H	V	O	Z	G	N	H
F	B	Q	I	W	D	X	P	T	E	N	A	O	L	Q
Z	C	R	D	Q	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	V
R	U	V	Y	K	N	I	R	T	K	G	E	Y	I	R
K	V	A	Z	X	L	S	H	Y	T	P	T	J	S	K
L	L	E	S	M	J	Z	L	Q	R	U	H	V	W	X

"Today in the town of David a _____ has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

LUKE 2:11, NIV

Answer: Savior

Meetings

No PPR

December 6, 2022
Trustees...7:00 PM

December 7, 2022
Worship Mtg...
10:00 AM

December 12, 2022
Ad Council/
Finance Mtg...7:00 PM

No Missions

Sundays
Hospitality 9:30 AM
Worship...10:00 AM

Wednesday
Choir...7:00 PM

DECEMBER

2022

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Anniversaries

Roger & Jackie Henderson
 December 4; 51 yrs.

Shara & Dennis Bowsher
 December 19; 42 yrs.

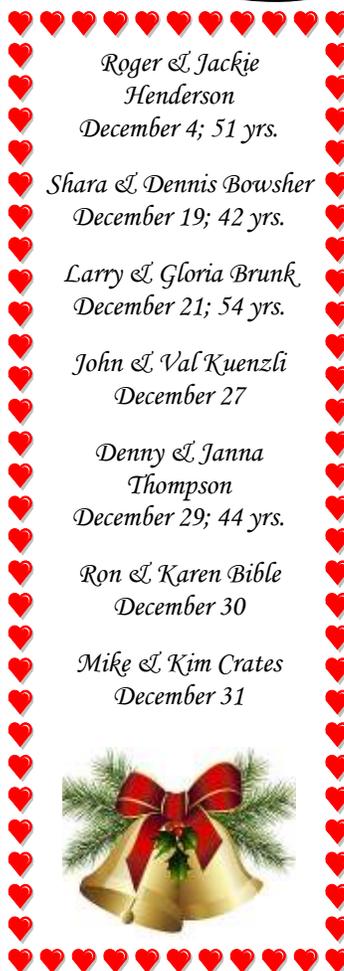
Larry & Gloria Brunk
 December 21; 54 yrs.

John & Val Kuenzli
 December 27

Denny & Janna Thompson
 December 29; 44 yrs.

Ron & Karen Bible
 December 30

Mike & Kim Crates
 December 31



				1 Lena Whetstone A.J. White	2 Michael Craft Lavonne Segovia	3
4	5 Shirley Adams	6 Teresa Grigsby Sue Theodore Lisa Wurster	7	8	9	10
11 Ron McAdams John Segovia	12	13	14	15 Taryn Piper	16	17
18 Mary Holmes Pam Moser	19	20 Mary Steiner	21	22 Kara Woeller	23	24 Linda Craft
25 Denny Grapner	26	27 Deb Hurd Megan Wyant	28	29 Tiffany Emmons Tammy Segovia	30 Cameron Emmons Tristin Gaghan	31 Jack White

First Sunday in Advent

Thank you!!
Myrna Metzger and
the McAdams Family
for the beautifully
decorated Sanctuary



Advent Candle:
The Scannell Family



Megan Emmons participated
in United Methodist Student
Sunday by giving the
Scripture Reading.

Jan Wyant presented a Bible to
Roy Selover, a third grader. Roy
is the son of Troy and Heather
Selover.



The People of St. Paul's

Pastoral Care:

Should you have a prayer requests needing pastoral care, please call Pastor Paul (734-660-1984) or the office (419-339-3801). If you are hospitalized, it is necessary to inform the church office with information so that we can care for you.

To add to prayer list: Contact the church office at 419-339-3801 or e-mail to officeesp@gmail.com.

Prayer Request Guidelines: Please go over prayer list and check on people you have requested prayer for. please use the above methods of contact to let us know if there is a change in status, such as, their situation has improved and may be taken off list or if that person is in need of continued prayer.



Remember in Prayer



**Recovering from Surgery
or in the Hospital**

Lavonne Segovia

Homebound Members

**Those in Need of Healing,
Support, Strength &
Encouragement**

Lavonne Segovia
Ted and Jan Sadders

In the Military & Missions

Nathan Stewart



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

They are \$10.00 each.

Please fill out this order form and with payment,
place in the offering plate or turn into the office.

Name: _____

Number of poinsettias: _____

In Honor/Memory of: _____

You may pick up your poinsettia following the Christmas Eve service
or pick up the week of December 25.



St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

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Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

Our Facebook page
Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH



Living Our Faith

At Home In Our Hearts

All hearts come home for Christmas," according to popular sentiment. But what if your heart (and/or home) is hurting or troubled? Does this season have room for people who are struggling? Does the holiday still have meaning?

Yes, God's word tells us. In fact, that's why God sent Jesus, the Word, from his heavenly home to make "his dwelling among us" (John 1:14, NIV). As fully human, Jesus experienced loneliness and betrayal, loss and physical pain. He was rejected by loved ones, angered by corruption, and abandoned to die. But as fully God, Jesus provides answers, healing and hope. Through his resurrection (which first required an earthly birth), Jesus offers salvation to all who believe in him.

As we await the heavenly home that God's Son is now preparing, we can welcome him and his comforting promises, even into our hurting hearts.