

Christmas Day
Isaiah 62:6-12
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:(1-7)8-20
Psalm 97

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December 25, 2009
Luke 2:(1-7)8-20

“Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” These are words taken from today's gospel reading.

This thing that the shepherds are referring to is what we are celebrating today. This thing is the birthday of Jesus Christ -- Jesus coming into the world for the first time.

St. Augustine writes that we celebrate the first coming of Jesus Christ, so that we will not be afraid of the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Jesus came into the world to teach us how to live, and to give us a magical word to use in our daily vocabulary, and that word is, “LOVE.”

Love is what Jesus is all about. If we love one another as we love ourselves, and believe that Jesus came into this world to save us, then we will not become afraid when Jesus comes into this world again, for the second time.

Those shepherds that went into Bethlehem to seek out this thing that had just taken place, not only found the baby Jesus, but their lives had been changed forever. In today's gospel reading, we hear that the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen.

A few years ago, I heard a preacher say that it was good for us, to celebrate and make a big fuss over the baby Jesus, but, thank God, that Jesus did not remain a little baby.

Four weeks ago, we celebrated the season of Advent. Advent is a season of preparation – a season where we prepare our hearts and minds to receive the Christ Child into this world.

As we prepared ourselves, we could feel the anticipation and the excitement growing inside of us each day. We couldn't wait for that special day to come.

Well, that special day is upon us now. The baby Jesus has come into the world, and we are here today to celebrate that event. We are here to celebrate this thing that has just

taken place.

We are here today to welcome the baby Jesus into that special place that we have prepared for him – that special place that might have been dark and empty for a long period.

As we continue to welcome the baby Jesus into that special place, let us also welcome in that special light that will begin to grow each day. Let us welcome in that light of Love. Let us allow that light, called Love, to grow each day, and become strong.

As we allow that light to grow, we will begin to experience, as the shepherds experienced when they saw the baby Jesus, a rebirth, there lives had been changed forever.

Because of this wonderful thing that has just taken place, our lives have been changed forever, as well, and that special place in our hearts will no longer be dark and empty. That special place will no longer be a lonely place to visit but will now become a place filled with much joy and laughter.

Because of this wonderful thing that has just taken place, we will no longer have to hide our light, but we will be able to let our light shine for everyone to see.

Because of this wonderful thing that has just taken place, we will be able to go out into the world, and share this Good News of Jesus Christ, with others.

We will be able to share that wonderful gift of Love that was so freely given to us, with others. We will be able to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

Because of this wonderful thing that has just taken place today, let us not forget, as we continue our celebration, when we leave here today, why this wonderful thing had to take place.

Let us all go forth into the world, glorifying and praising God, and not be afraid to welcome Jesus when he comes again into this world, for the second time.

I wish everyone a blessed and joyous Christmas.