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

Eugenia Theresa Wilson
December 25, 2011
Luke 2:8-20

During the Advent Season, we sang:

“O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!”

We sang those words with the greatest of anticipation, because we knew in our heart of hearts, that our words would be heard and that Emmanuel, the Key of David, the Prince of Peace, a Savior who is the Messiah, out of great love for us all, would leave his rightful place sitting next to his Father in heaven, and come down to earth, and take on our humanity, so that we may have eternal life.

This Prince of Peace, a Savior who is the Messiah, did not come into this world, on a cloud, riding in a fancy chariot, nor did this Prince of Peace, a Savior who is the Messiah, come into this world dressed in fancy and expensive clothing and wearing fancy jewelry.

This Prince of Peace, this Savior who is the Messiah, took on our humanity, and entered quietly, into this world, with great humility. This precious little baby who wore, and had nothing, was wrapped in bands of cloth, and place in a manger.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Today we celebrate the arrival of Emmanuel! Emmanuel, our Savior who is the Messiah the Prince of Peace, the Key of David, has come to rescue us from the hands of darkness, and lead us into the light.

In today's gospel, we are told that the shepherds, who were ordinary people, were the first ones to hear about this wonderful “thing that had just taken place.” Ordinary people like you and I, hard working people, who were keeping watch over their flocks, were the first ones to see and witness this wonderful, and blessed event that had taken place, and whose lives would no longer be the same.

I truly believe that it was no accident, that those shepherds were the first, besides the animals, to witness this wonderful event, and to receive first hand, God's message of love and hope.

For you see, God did not just send his angels down to be a witness to those shepherds, on that first Christmas morning, God continues to send his angels down from heaven, to bring that same message of peace, joy, hope, and love, to all of us, ordinary people, each and every day.

We are told that those shepherd's lives had been changed forever, because of God's wonderful gift to them. Today, our lives has been, and continues to be changed, each and every day by this wonderful 'thing' that God has done for us all.

“For God so loved the world that he gave us his only Son,” and today we celebrate the arrival of that wonderful gift called LOVE. LOVE came down from heaven and took on our humanity, so that we, ordinary people, may have eternal life.

Because of this wonderful gift of LOVE given to us today, by God, that special place in our hearts, will no longer feel dark and empty, and lonely.

That special place will now become overflowing with much love and joy, and our light will begin to shine brightly for all the world to see. It will now become a place, in which we will want to come and visit, over and over again. It will become a place of much enjoyment for us to sit and quiet ourselves and be in the presence of God.

With God's gift of LOVE, that was so freely given to us today, we will be able to go out into the world, and not be ashamed to share God's gift of LOVE, and share the Good News of God in Christ, with everyone that we meet.

As we continue our celebration, when we leave here today, let us never forget “WHY” this wonderful gift of LOVE, God so freely gave us today, and continues to give us each and every day, “HAD” to take place.

Let us all go forth into the world, glorifying and praising God, welcoming Emmanuel, the Key of David, the Prince of Peace, a Savior, who is the Messiah, that precious little baby, born to us today, into our hearts, and let us always have a place prepared, for him, when he comes again, in his glory.

I wish everyone a blessed and joyous Christmas.