

Advent Devotional – December 11, 2018

Yesterday, I was at the church wrapping my Angel Tree gifts. During this activity, the following thread of text messages were sent between me and Mandy:

Me: “Do you remember that new pack of tissue paper that was in the library and I said I didn’t need it? Is it here at the church somewhere? I could use a few pieces.”

Mandy: “I think someone put it in the women’s bathroom.”

Me: “LOL – That’s weird. OK, I’ll look.”

Mandy: “Oh wait tissue paper? LOL - I was thinking Kleenex!”

Me: “Hahahahaha”

Some things about this season are a little weird.

One day, an Angel appeared to a young virgin named Mary and told her that, through the Holy Spirit, she would conceive and give birth to God’s Son – the King who would save the world. That’s weird.

God’s Son, Jesus (“God Saves”), was later born to Mary and her fiancé’ – a young, poor couple from the dirty town of Nazareth. That’s weird.

This King was born not in a palace, but in a manger, surrounded by dirt and animals. That’s weird.

The Good News of His birth first came to lowly shepherds who were social outcasts. And a great heavenly host appeared right there in that nasty old field and said, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those he favors.” Then they instructed those dirty, lowly shepherds to go and see the child. They were the first visitors to see Emmanuel (“God with us”). That’s weird.

The God of all creation – the Lord of all that is, emptied himself of all the privileges of heaven and came here to live among us, as one of us. That’s weird.

“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won’t perish but will have eternal life. God didn’t send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.” John 3:16-17 (CEB)

He came for you. He came for me. That’s weird.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Pastor Jannette