

The Connection

Messages of Hope



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 761

December 13, 2023

“Having the Mind of Christ Jesus My Lord”

Nicholas was born of wealthy parents in A.D. 280 in a small town called Patara in Asia Minor. He lost his parents early by an epidemic, but not before they had instilled in him the gift of faith. Then young Nicholas went to Myra and lived a life full of sacrifice and love and filled with spirit of Jesus. Nicholas became so Christlike that when the town needed a bishop he was elected. He was imprisoned for his faith in Jesus Christ by Emperor Diocletian and released later by Emperor Constantine.

There have been many stories of his generosity and compassion written and shared throughout the centuries; how he begged for food for the poor, and how he would give girls money so that they would have a dowry to get a husband. The story most often repeated was about how he would don a disguise and go out to give gifts to poor children, not wanting to draw attention to himself. He gave away everything he had. And in 314 he died a pauper and his body was later moved to Italy where his remains are to this day.

But the story of Nicholas has spread around the world. There are more churches in the world named after St. Nicholas than any other person in all the history of the church. And, people have done strange things to him. The poet, Clement More, gave him a red nose and eight tiny reindeer. And Thomas Nast, the illustrator, made him big and fat and gave him a red suit trimmed by fur. And others have given him names like: Belsnickle, Kris Kringle, Santa Claus.

But all the add-ons is not what's important. What is important about him is that he had the mind of Christ. People were amazed how Christ-like Nicholas was. Because of his gentle selfless love, he touched the whole world. And folks, this same mind of Christ is to be in us. Believer, we don't get a pass.

Around the world, throughout the 20th and now into the 21st Centuries, we have romanticized St. Nicholas or in most cases Santa Claus. The love and care and the giving of gifts are great. But I feel those most often miss the reason that Nicholas of Patara did what he did. He did it because of Jesus Christ. He did it because Christ first loved him. He sacrificed and gave ALL he had away because the love of God and the love of other human beings were more important to him than the gains of this world.

I thought of just a few verses that might remind us of that as believers, we are to have the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:16 “For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ...”

Romans 8:10 “If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.”

1 Corinthians 1:6 “...even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you.”

1 Corinthians 3:23 “...and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.”

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

1 Timothy 1:12 “I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service...”

Philippians 2:5 “Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus...”

Philippians 3:14 “I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

From the publishing of this article in the HOPE Connection on December 13, 2023, there are 12 days to Christmas. Let us all, everyone reading this article, if not already, say today that I will press toward the goal, that upward call, to have the attitude and mind of Jesus Christ in me. Not only for the balance of 2023, but forward, into 2024 and beyond. This attitude will bring glory to God and make the world around us a better place.

Well done Nicholas!!! In our world today, the young people would say, “You GO Nicholas!” My we GO and have the mind of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessings all,

Pastor Marty Duffell - HOPE Church Raleigh
Worship . Grow . Serve

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, December 13

Wednesday Night Devotion & Prayer
@ 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 14

EPC Pastors Breakfast @ 7:30 a.m.
Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 16

The Computer Lab @ 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 17

3rd Sunday of Advent

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 8:30 a.m.
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.
Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.

Monday, December 18

Worship Leader Search Team Meeting
@ 7:00 p.m. (via Zoom)

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - December 17
Church is Providing

ProPresenter - December 17
Emma Duffell

Soundboard - December 17
Jane Davis

Live Streaming - December 17
Al Floyd

Communion - December
Elizabeth Floyd

Greeter - December 17
Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - December 17
Volunteer Needed

Scripture Text and Sermon
This Sunday

3rd Sunday of Advent

Luke 2:8 - 20
"And There Were
Shepherds..."



Outreach Ministries

"Food of the Month"

for the Raleigh Dream Center
Food Pantry

Pop Top Soups

We have a collection bin in the foyer

HOPE Meal Ministry

Take a meal from the freezer if
needed for you or someone else.

The Computer Lab

Saturday, January 13
@ 9:00 a.m.

TLC Devotion

4th Wednesday each Month
@ 11:00 a.m.

Spiritual Growth Ministries

Women of HOPE

Saturday, December 23
@ 1:00 p.m.

NO Wednesday Night Supper until January

There will be no Wed. Night Supper until
January. We will have a Devotional and
Prayer Time beginning 11/29 through
12/20. Wed. Night Supper, Study, and
Prayer resumes 1/3/24

There will not be Sunday school on the following Sundays:

December 24 (Christmas Eve)
December 31 (New Years Eve)
January 7 (Covered Dish Meal)

Quote of the Week

"Aim at heaven and you will get
earth thrown in. Aim at earth and
you get neither."

C.S. Lewis

Prayer Requests:

Revill & Mary Lane Mallory, Jamie
Baldwin, Donna Williams, Diane Williams,
Carol & Colin (Kathy Herriman's Sister &
Brother-in-law), Loretta (Sandi
Underwood's daughter), Joan Summers,
Shelley, Diane Mack's Sister-in-law,
Jordan & Cinnamon (son and daughter of
Lynn Joyner's family members), Tommy
and Billy Lanphere (Lynn Joyner's
brothers), Gene & Becky Hale, Dave &
Dot Geil, Carlyle and Cynthia Franklin
(Sandra Pierce's dad and stepmom),
Brian Adam's dad, our Military, our
Missionaries, our Nation, and the world.
If you have those you would like added to
our prayer concerns, please email me
those names.

Wednesday Night, Devotion & Prayer December 13

@ 7:00 p.m.
In person or via Zoom



Upcoming Dates

Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 24
@ 5:00 p.m.

Invite a Friend

16th Anniversary Service
Sunday, January 7th
Covered Dish Meal After
Worship

HOPE Church Raleigh
An Evangelical Presbyterian Church
4911 Green Rd
Raleigh, NC 27616
919-508-6827

Worship Time: 9:30 AM

www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org

www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh

Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh

YouTube.com (type "HOPE Church Raleigh"
in the search box)

Daily Devotions

For This Coming Week

Dec. 17	Daniel	5
Dec. 18	Daniel	6
Dec. 19	Daniel	7
Dec. 20	Daniel	8
Dec. 21	Daniel	9
Dec. 22	Daniel	10
Dec. 23	Daniel	11