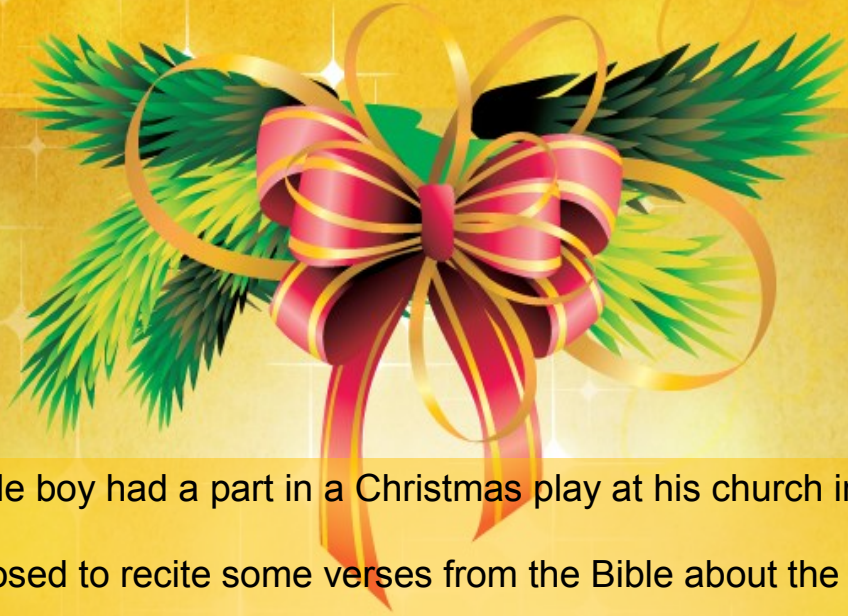
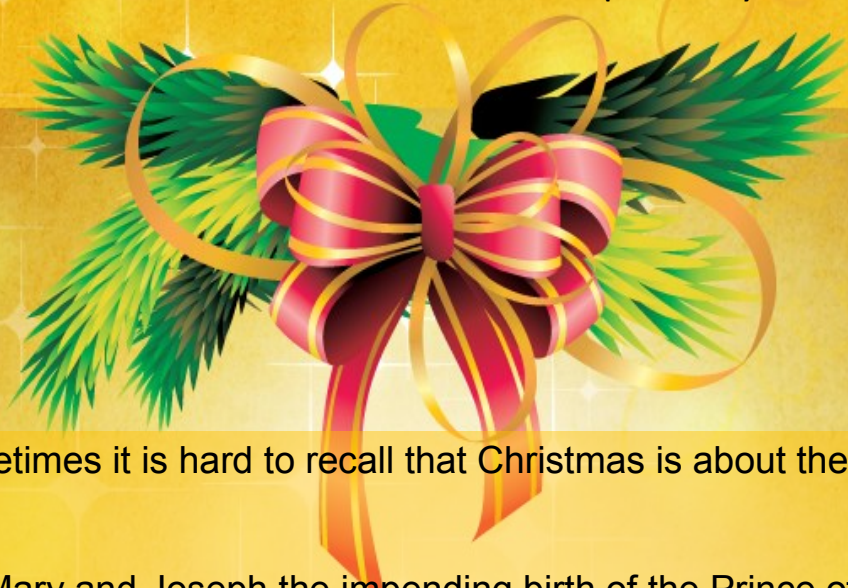


ADVENT DAY # 3



A little boy had a part in a Christmas play at his church in which he was supposed to recite some verses from the Bible about the birth of Jesus. To jog his memory he wrote the bible verses on a piece of paper and pinned them to various places on his clothing. He took his place on stage, somewhat nervous because of the large crowd, but his memory was serving him well. He began, "To us a child is born, a Son is given, and his name shall be called wonderful counselor, mighty God, Eternal Father..." Just then a cell phone rang in the audience. Thrown off by the interruption, the boy forgot what was next. So he glanced at one of his notes and started again, "To us a child is born, a Son is given, and his name shall be called..." But the rest of line just would not come. He was becoming more and more anxious about the line he just could not remember. So he went to his fallback position. He confidently began, "To us a child is born, a Son is given, and his name shall be called..." Then looking at his waist he finished the verse, "Fruit of the Loom."

ADVENT DAY # 3 *(continued)*



Sometimes it is hard to recall that Christmas is about the Prince of Peace.

For Mary and Joseph the impending birth of the Prince of Peace brings more confusion and chaos into their lives than peace. They are making wedding plans and Mary becomes pregnant, but not by her fiancé Joseph. Under the Old Testament law she could have been killed or stoned for such a thing. Joseph was so confused by it all that he was considering a quiet annulment.

In the midst of making honeymoon plans, they are forced to make an unplanned trip to Bethlehem to participate in the census. They plan to stay the night in a nice cozy room, but end up sleeping with the cattle.

Their “Christmas” is filled with chaos and confusion. And in the midst of all the chaos and confusion is born the one who is called the “Prince of Peace.”

Sometimes it is hard to recall that Christmas is about the Prince of Peace. Yet, in the midst of the chaos and confusion “A child is born to us, a Son is given to us,...He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6 (Common English Bible).

Peace be with you!

Pastor Jeff