



***“This Christmas, I wish you Jesus.”
“Isn’t it nice to have everything!”***



“To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11).

This holy time of the year — filled with family togetherness, gift giving, and heartfelt sharing — is, in the deepest sense, a time of prayer and reflection. God is truly “God with us”. No longer is God distant. God has entered the world. God is close to us. The Savior is born: through the Gospel and those who proclaim it, God now reminds us of the message that the Angel announced to the shepherds. It is a message that should not leave us indifferent. If it is true, it changes everything. If it is true, it also affects each and every one of us.

As we remember and celebrate God’s greatest “I love you” to Creation, we realized that only Christ can bring us the peace, joy and happiness which we all seek. We recall the words of Isaiah quoted by Luke that Christ came to preach the Good News to the poor and brokenhearted and to free those who are oppressed.

Christmas is for sinners. Christ came for us. Jesus is the reason for the season. It must soak in our hearts that Christ loves us very much. Enjoy the season: Visit with family and friends. We need each other. May Christmas remove the tyranny of our selfishness that never satisfies the human heart. Every Christmas calls us to become more and more like Jesus—a process that lasts a lifetime. May we go tell it on the mountains and the valleys, yes, Jesus Christ is born through us.



May you know the true happiness of the real meaning of the Christmas holiday. May you feel the love that God offers through this magnanimous gift of the Messiah.

On this joyful occasion, Martin, Marissa, Biancha, John, Sophia, Nicolas and I extend to each of you our Fifth Avenue United Methodist Family, our love and appreciation; gratitude for your support, leadership, and good wishes throughout 2017. May our Lord Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, bless you, your families and loved ones at this blessed time of hope and grace. May the gift of God’s love come alive in your heart this Christmas and may the New Year bring you many occasions for rejoicing.

**JOY TO THE WORLD
THE LORD HAS COME**

**A VERY BLESSED
AND
MERRY CHRISTMAS**

Pastor Clarissa & Martin

“It takes more than a busy church, a friendly church, or even an evangelical church to impact a community for Christ. It must be a church ablaze, led by leaders who are ablaze for God.” Wesley L. Duewel