

Friday

As you read through the following verses, write down any encouragement you see when it comes to waiting on God: Psalm 5:3, 27:14, 33:20, 37:7, 38:15, 40:1 & 130:5.

Thank God today that waiting on Him is never wasted. Pray that you will wait well in your life and be an encouragement to others who may be in God's waiting room too.

Saturday

Please read Proverbs 3:5-6. It comes down to trusting God – not just for your salvation, but for every minute of your life. *Spend time in prayer this morning talking with God about the coming weeks. Ask Him to direct your steps through this Christmas season. Pray that you will live a life anchored in God and that your actions will reflect your faith.*

Prayer Update

HOSPITALIZED & SURGERIES this past week

Dave Staffa bone marrow transplant, Stanford

Matthew Brunetti (age 13) surgical procedure at UCSF

Liz Bishop cancer surgery 12/11

RECENT SURGERIES OR HOSPITALIZATIONS

June Ettinger, Bud Mann, David Hacker, Mark Farmer, Cameron Bingham

HOSPICE CARE

John Burton, Elizabeth Harrell, Elaine Hedges, Charleen Van Veldhuizen

HOME WITH THE LORD

Heartfelt love and care are extended to Rodney Markell, Jeremiah (Valerie) Carr, Adam Carr, Jamie Carr and Kelli Markell as they grieve the sudden loss of their mother, **Jane Carr**, who passed peacefully in her sleep. Jane was a caring and compassionate woman who shared her love of the Lord through helping others.

BIRTHS

Ryan and Lily Jones (Venue worship leaders) welcome their newborn son, **Greyson Jeremiah**, into their hearts and home. Greyson was born two weeks early on 11/24—praise God he is healthy and thriving!

A complete prayer list is available at the information desk.



light has come

...To Your Silent Nights

PART 1 // DECEMBER 7 & 8 // MARK SPURLOCK

"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "**God with us.**" Matthew 1:23

Luke 2:1-7

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world... And everyone went to his own town to register. Luke 2:1, 3

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. Luke 2:4-5

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Micah 5:2

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:6-7

During your silent nights

1. Don't confuse God's _____ with his _____.
2. When you hear God's silence, and feel his absence, trust his _____.
3. Ask: What would I do if I were _____
God was _____?

Acknowledgement

The title of today's message and application points were inspired by the sermon *Silent Nights* by Ken Henderson, North Point Church, December 16, 2012.

This Week's Memory Verse:

"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him "Immanuel" – which means "God with us." Matthew 1:23

Daily Meditations

Monday

Please read Matthew 1:23. This verse is the promise. The promise that generations eagerly desired to see fulfilled – the promise that would change EVERYTHING. However, the promise was given hundreds of years before its fulfillment.

How do you cope with God's seeming silence to His promises? Does your attitude tend towards patience, busyness, making excuses for God, disappointment or something else?

How could looking back on God's fulfillment of this most amazing promise help you in the silent times?

Thank God today for the many promises fulfilled you see in the Bible and in your life! Pray that your faith will rest on God's character and not your feelings.

Tuesday

Please read Micah 5:2 & Luke 2:1-5. In the silence, God was working. He orchestrated a journey that Joseph would not likely have undertaken with a very pregnant Mary unless he had to. It probably didn't seem like God was moving to Mary & Joseph, but He was putting them in place to fulfill the promise He made generations earlier.

How does God's work (even through government officials) give you encouragement in the silent times?

Thank God today for His amazing power over life's circumstances. Thank Him for His all-knowing and all-understanding view of your life. Pray for courage to trust His active presence in your life and for eyes to see the ordinary movements as Divine intervention!

Wednesday

Please read Luke 2:6-7. In very simple words, Luke describes the ultimate hinge of human history. The promise is fulfilled in a very ordinary looking baby.

How do you imagine Mary & Joseph were feeling about God's promise to them in that moment?

Recall a time when God did what He promised in your life but it didn't look like you imagined it would? How did that impact your acceptance of the promise fulfilled in the moment? How has your view of that moment changed as you gained the perspective of time?

Thank God today that He knows the best way to fulfill the promises He's made to you. Pray for joy as you experience the fulfillment of promises in His way and time.

Thursday

Please read Isaiah 50:10-11. Verse 11 has long served as a caution for any of us who grows weary of waiting for God and tired of His apparent silence.

When are you most tempted to "light your own fires"?

What does verse 10 say to do when you are struggling with God's silence?

Think of at least one area of your life where you are currently trying to "light your own fire". How will you "trust in the name of the Lord and rely on God" today?

Thank God that He is there in the dark and silence. Pray for the emotional and spiritual strength to choose trust over control today.