



*Advent - Christmas 2014*

**Oh, that you would  
reveal your mystery**

**A CMF Worship Series**

**Advent Three: Finding Joy**

**Pastor David Flowers**



*Advent - Christmas 2014*

Advent One: Hope Renewed

Advent Two: Passing On Peace

**Advent Three: Finding Joy**

Advent Four: Liberating Love

Christmas: Beauty That Blesses

Epiphany Sunday: God's Mystery Revealed

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## Isaiah 40:3-5 NLT

<sup>3</sup> “Clear the way through the wilderness  
for the LORD!

Make a straight highway through the wasteland  
for our God!

<sup>4</sup> Fill in the valleys,  
and level the mountains and hills.

Straighten the curves,  
and smooth out the rough places.

<sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,  
and all people will see it together.  
The LORD has spoken!”

The apostle John tells the story about Christ's coming and how John the Baptist clears the way for Messiah Jesus.

John 1:1-34

**The Visual Bible: The Gospel of John (2003)**

## Isaiah 61:1-2 NIV

<sup>1</sup> The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners,  
<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor  
and the day of vengeance of our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,

## Isaiah 61:3-4 NIV

<sup>3</sup> and provide for those who grieve in Zion—  
to bestow on them a crown of beauty  
instead of ashes,  
the oil of joy  
instead of mourning,  
and a garment of praise  
instead of a spirit of despair.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
a planting of the LORD  
for the display of his splendor.

<sup>4</sup> They will rebuild the ancient ruins  
and restore the places long devastated;  
they will renew the ruined cities  
that have been devastated for generations.

## Isaiah 61:8-9 NIV

<sup>8</sup> “For I, the LORD, love justice;

I hate robbery and wrongdoing.

In my faithfulness I will reward my people  
and make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup> Their descendants will be known among the nations  
and their offspring among the peoples.

All who see them will acknowledge

that they are a people the LORD has blessed.”

## **Luke 4:14-17 NIV**

<sup>14</sup> Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.

<sup>15</sup> He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

<sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:



## Luke 4:18-21 NIV

<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,  
<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” [a]

<sup>20</sup> Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. <sup>21</sup> He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

[a.] Isaiah 61:1-2a

“We have only to read the passage of Isaiah that Jesus read to see the difference between Jesus and John the Baptist. John was the preacher of doom and at his message men must have shuddered with terror. It was a gospel—Good News—which Jesus brought. Jesus too knew the wrath of God but it was always the wrath of love.”

William Barclay, *The Gospel of Luke* (pg.45)

## **Luke 1:46-55 NIV – The Magnificat or “Mary’s Song”**

“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.”

## Psalm 126:1-6 NLT

<sup>1</sup> When the LORD brought back his exiles to Jerusalem,  
it was like a dream!

<sup>2</sup> We were filled with laughter,  
and we sang for joy.

And the other nations said,

“What amazing things the LORD has done for them.”

<sup>3</sup> Yes, the LORD has done amazing things for us!  
What joy!

<sup>4</sup> Restore our fortunes, LORD,  
as streams renew the desert.

<sup>5</sup> Those who plant in tears  
will harvest with shouts of joy.

<sup>6</sup> They weep as they go to plant their seed,  
but they sing as they return with the harvest.

## **Jesus, John 15:9-11 NLT**

<sup>9</sup> “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

## **Paul, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 NLT**

<sup>16</sup> Always be joyful. <sup>17</sup> Never stop praying. <sup>18</sup> Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. <sup>19</sup> Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not scoff at prophecies, <sup>21</sup> but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good. <sup>22</sup> Stay away from every kind of evil.

<sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. <sup>24</sup> God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful.

Joy To The World

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**Sermon audio & slides in PDF can be downloaded at:  
[www.christiansburgmennonite.org](http://www.christiansburgmennonite.org)**



# CMTF Christmas Family Event

Join us for...  
Candlelit Singing  
The Nativity Story  
Food & Fellowship

Sunday Evening  
December 14th  
5:00 – 8:00 PM



*Aimee Paul*  
Childcare Provided  
Photography