



The Shepherd's Voice

December 18, 2012

By Fr. Joe Rees

'Greetings & Sounds of Joy'

"And how has it happened to me (Elizabeth), that the mother of my Lord would come to me? For behold, when the sound of your voice, your greeting, reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy." Luke 1: 43-44.

The greeting from Mary to Elizabeth carried with it the power of the Messiah's voice, a voice of love, peace, and the voice of destiny. John the Baptist, who was the child in Elizabeth's womb, leaped for joy at the sound of Mary's voice laden with his cousin's Spirit within her. What an incredible moment, what an amazing sight; even more, what delightful grace washed over these women who hugged each other with love and blessings. The children in their wombs were less than two inches apart, but several months different in age, yet filled with the same Spirit of God. One would be the other's herald. Jesus would be John's Savior! There was in that moment a type of baptism of the Baptist. God's Spirit from His Son Jesus reached into Elizabeth's womb from Mary and ordained John for the mission of his life. The greeting was the Lord's and when it was received there were sounds of joy, in the heart and soul of Jesus but also of the saints and angels in heaven!

I'd like to think these wonderful thoughts are imbedded in our voices when we greet someone we know, or even for the first time. As Christ lives in each of us, His voice ought to be interlaced in our voices. As we greet someone, we too will be greeting them with the voice of Jesus our Savior. Let's pray that in fact. Let's ask the Lord by the power of His Spirit that we might have His voice transfer extraordinary grace into the lives of those we greet this Christmas season. Let's imagine

with sacred Light upon our minds that our greetings will carry God's Spirit and bring that person into such a place of joy and delight that they know they have been touched by God. Perhaps they too will be baptized with a mission of life that engages them to enlarge God's Kingdom. We just never know how our voices will transmit God's presence, His purposes for the 'other'. We carry His voice, if we might just let it come forth.

Our voices in joyful greetings of the newborn King, Jesus our Savior, can bring someone out of despair, loneliness, or evil. Our voices with the Spirit of God laced within them may totally transform someone we know and give them the gift of eternal salvation. Our voices this Christmas might bring many into God's Kingdom, if we'll use them for His glory. You might pray that God gives you that special grace in your voice that comes straight from His heart of love for someone else. What kind of voice will you have then this Christmas? Will it be a voice that makes someone's heart leap for joy? Or perhaps it will be the implanting of the seed that brings them the gift of eternal life? Or maybe it's a voice that relays forgiveness and hope, the greater gifts that the person really needed. Our voices are crucial to God's plan to deliver people from the bondage of sin and death into the Kingdom of heaven. Let's use them for His glory this Christmas and all throughout the New Year.

My prayer for all of us is that in all our greetings with loved ones and friends, with church members and newcomers, with the outcast and lonely, that the Spirit of God would be conveyed into their lives and they might leap for joy in the Lord Jesus' love. Share this love in your voices gracefully.

Can you now see the Lord Jesus in heaven?
He's leaping for joy!

Love in Christ,
Fr. Joe

With a greeting of love in Jesus to all who read
this,

Sunday Servers this week...

December 23, 2012	4th Advent		9:00 a.m. Service
First Reader	Micah 5:2-4		Randy Stewart
Psalm Reader	Psalm 80	One Service	Trish Stewart
Second Reader	Hebrews 10:5-10	Sunday	Judy Gillease
Intercessor			Acolyte
Lay Euch. Ministers			Richard Rieder, Frances Slaughter
Acolytes			Rob A (C); David A (T1); Kalani C (T2)
Welcomers			Paula Sholly, Jane Rost, Bill & Judi Collins
Ushers			Dink Nash, Ted Vallas, Ray Seibold, Jackie Lansing
Vestry Person of Day	Dink Nash		
Healing Ministers			Sarah Fuller, Rudy Theobald
Announcer			Robbin Gates

Thank you for your generous donations to our holiday food drive. We will be able to feed families that might not have a holiday dinner without your help.

Beginning on January 7th, our food ministry will be open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12-2 p.m. to hand out food packages to those in need. If you would like to help with this please call Rob Ackerman.

Tuesdays in January and Beyond

Jan 8th-Feb 5th and Feb. 26-Mar. 19th
Donna Brayton will present a nine week course.

“The Signs of the Times”

We are living in the age of flourishing unbelief, skepticism and even assault! What better time to set our hearts and our minds on what Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount! What did He say about sin, justification, sanctification, holiness? What did He say about following Him—the fight—the cost—the promise? The potluck fellowship dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. and the teaching begins at 7:00 p.m.

New Year’s Eve Service at Grace

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Ring in the new year with prayer for your church, your community, your nation.
You can still be home in time for a New York New Year’s Eve. (9:00 p.m.)



Christmas Services

Christmas Eve – 5:00 p.m. – Family Service

10:00 p.m. – Traditional Service

Christmas Day – 10:00 a.m.

Sunday at Grace

9:00 a.m. – One Service

10:30 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship

Christmas Day Service 10:00 a.m.

Readings for Sunday

Micah 5:2-4

Psalm 80:1-7

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-56

We are using the English Standard
Version of the Bible and the Lectionary
from the Book of Common Prayer
(Year C)

This Week at Grace –Dec. 18, -Dec. 25, 2012

Tues. December 18

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study – Isaiah

4:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist at the Oasis

Wed December 19

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & Eucharist

11:30 a.m. Staff lunch

No Wed. evening Healing Prayer until further notice.

6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Thurs. December 20

7:00 a.m. Bible Study

11:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at the Oasis

3:30 p.m. Alpha Club

7:00 p.m. Choir

Fri. December 21

6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer & Eucharist at Grace

Sat. December 22

8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

Sun. December 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. One Service

10:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

Mon. December 24

Church Office Closed

5:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve service

10:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Eve service

Tues. December 25

Church Office Closed

10:00 a.m. Christmas Day service

Rector's Bible Study

Tuesdays

11:30 a.m.

Fr. Joe is leading the group through a study of
the Book of Isaiah. Everyone is welcome.
B.Y.O.L. (Bring your own lunch)

**Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.
Morning Prayer At Grace Anglican
All are welcome to attend.**

Weekly – There are over 25 small groups meeting
during the week. Check our newsletter for a list of
all the groups or you can find the list on our website:
www.graceanglicanchurch.com.

Save the date!

Dec. 23 One Service at 9:00 a.m.

Dec. 24 Services at 5 and 10 p.m.

Dec. 25 Service at 10:00 a.m.

Dec. 30 One Service at 9:00 a.m.

Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.

Jan. 27 All Parish Annual Meeting

Feb. 16&17 Bishop Bill at Grace

May 3 Anglican Men's Retreat at Forest Home