



# BERKSHIRE COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST

## BULLETIN

12/24/2023



### Do people speak of you that way?

*"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive"*

**(Col. 3:12-13).** Where is compassion today? Where is kindness,

humility, meekness, and patience? And where is forgiveness? Have they been lost to a world that is so self-absorbed and self-righteous that it cannot empathize, encourage, and lift up? We live in a world that brutalizes anyone who shows any kind of weakness. Instead of compassion, indifference is the order of the day, if not total glee at other's misfortune.

Kindness, another rarity in the modern, selfish world, is also deemed weak, and any show of such is ridiculed. And we won't even mention how pathetic anyone with humility is deemed to be. Its antonyms like pride and arrogance are considered powerful and attractive personality attributes that must be embraced by anyone seeking respect. Patience is found almost nowhere in a fast-paced world where the self is the only thing that matters. As for meekness, that is for fools, reserved for the delusional few who call themselves "Christians," or so the world believes. So, anyone showing any of the virtues mentioned in Col. 3:12-13 is marginalized, laughed at, scoffed at, and, if the opportunity avails itself, becomes an easy target of cancel culture.

That is the world at large – a place of tearing down and destroying, where the devil reigns as supreme leader of hatred and chaos. But there is a place where all those good things we read of in today's selected verses can be found. That place is in the hearts and minds of Christians who consider themselves blessed to be undeservedly loved by a gracious God. They consider themselves children of the Almighty and thus live those virtues with glorious resolve, ignoring the world's scorn as they live a life pleasing to the Lord. You will know them by their name, "Christian," and their location on a Sunday morning and every night before bedtime. Sundays find them enjoying fellowship, praise, and worship with like-minded individuals at church, and every evening, you will see them on their knees.

PTO...

Their joy overflows, and if you are near them or even hear them on the telephone, you cannot help but have your spirits lifted by their positivity and loving hearts. They will bear your burdens with you and will have unfathomable compassion for you. Kindness follows them like a faithful servant, and humility surrounds them like a glorious cloak. Their meekness is never to be confused with weakness, and they will be prepared to go into battle with you as a Christian ally at the drop of a hat. Their patience exceeds all expectations, and their lives are shining examples of the peace a little tolerance brings. And they are also forgiving even when it is genuinely challenging to do so. Anger is cast aside as an olive branch is humbly offered to all those who have caused stress and even anguish in their lives. They are quick to do so because they know their forgiveness begets the forgiveness of God – **Mar. 11:25**, *“And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”* Christ is their Lord and example, and they lift His glorious and Holy name by their sincerely moral behavior. To them, friendship is a treasure and happiness a gift to be shared with everyone they meet, setting before them an example that loudly hails, “I am a child of God!” Let me ask you this, *“Do people speak of you that way? Do family, friends, and strangers alike observe the light that shines before you so that they may ‘...give glory to your Father who is in heaven?’”* (**Mat. 5:16**).

<u>AM ORDER OF WORSHIP</u>	<u>PM ORDER OF WORSHIP</u>
<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u> - Cleve Stafford	<u>ANNOUNCEMENT</u> - No Service
<u>SONG</u> - 376 - Joy to the World 1,2,4	<u>SONG</u> - No Service
<u>PRAYER</u> - Luke 2:11 Cade Stafford	<u>PRAYER</u> - No Service
<u>SONG</u> - 950 - Lamb of God	<u>SONG</u> - No Service
<u>COMMUNION</u> - 1 Cor 11:28-32 Bill Joy	<u>SERMON</u> - No Service
<u>SONG</u> - 202 - Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	<u>SONG</u> - No Service
<u>SERMON</u> - The Greatest Birth Ever Recorded	<u>COMMUNION</u> - No Service
<u>INV SONG</u> - 577 - Silent Night	<u>INV SONG</u> - No Service
<u>CLOSING PRAYER</u> - Emmanuel Twumasi	<u>CLOSING PRAYER</u> -No Service



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS**

Please silence your phone by placing it in airport mode.



**We ask all visitors to please pick up a visitors card and fill it in.**

- Bulletins are on the fireplace table and sermon notes are inside when available.
- Please put your offering in the provided envelope (don't write anything on it)..
- If you look on the back of the visitors card you will see space to right a prayer request if you have one - feel free to do that and hand it in to us so we can pray about it.
- Our next potluck meal will be on 28 January following morning service. Please invite a friend and bring a dish to share ( enough to feed 12 people)
- Ladies breakfasts will be 3 February at 10:30am here at the church. Please bring a dish to share.



## **PRAYER REQUESTS**



- Continued Prayers for Melinda's mom Isabel du Toit who is still undergoing Chemotherapy.
- Prayers for Cleve's dad, Edgar Stafford who was diagnosed with early onset of dementia.
- Prayers for all our service people wherever in the world they have been deployed to.
- Safe travels to everyone who are traveling during the holidays.

## **PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING**

- Praise God for our sponsors.
- Praise God for the privilege to worship in safety
- Praise God for the measure of health and wealth we enjoy.
- Praise for Cade's safe arrival.

## **BIRTHDAYS / SPECIAL OCCASIONS**



### **Birthdays**

9 - Jeffery Tarmey  
23 - Lorenzo Gonzales Quiacian  
29 - MaryAnn Cox

### **Anniversaries**

23 - Cleve and Melinda

Sunday morning Bible Class - 9:00AM  
 Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 7:00PM  
 Personal Bible Study (Convenient time)



Web Page



WiFi



Facebook

Word Search



Word List

ADOPTION	ALIVE	ANGEL	BETHLEHEM
BOOK	BORN	CHRISTMAS	FRANKINCENSE
GOD	GOLD	HADES	HEAVEN
HELL	IMMANUEL	JESUS	JOY
MYRRH	SAVIOR	SIN	TRUMPET
VIRGIN			