

The Covenanter

Silverhill Covenant Church

“To work for God, God’s people, and to win souls for His Kingdom”

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silverhillcovenant.org

Love Came Down

William Barclay (1907-1978) New Testament scholar, writer, theologian and teacher, wrote concerning Christ’s birth and its impact on our world:

William Booth, at a rally of London Salvationists shouted, “How wide is the girth of the world?” “Twenty-five thousand miles,” came the answer. “Then,” roared Booth, “we must grow till our arms get right round about it.” This is the message of Christmas.

On the second night of the Vatican Council, Pope John XXIII stood in the window of his private study, smiling at the thousands and thousands of cheering Romans below in St. Peter’s Square. He quieted them. He spoke to them. “Go home,” he said, “and make love grow from here to everywhere.” It is the same message. Nothing less than a world united in the love of Christ will do. “Love came down at Christmas” to create love in a world lacking in it.

Have you ever thought about where the world would be if Jesus and the love that came into the world by him had never come? Would mankind still be here 2000 years down the road or would hate and selfishness have finished off mankind? Where would the world be today if it were not for that first Christmas? Would the world even know what real love is?

The Apostle John wrote, “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers...let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth (I John 3: 16-18). He goes on to say, “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God...we love because he first loved us” (I John 4: 7, 19).

Where would love be if there was no Christmas? Would we even know what

love is apart from that first Christmas? Where would the world be without love? As William Barclay said, “Love came down at Christmas.”



December 2006

Silent Night

In the Austrian village of Hallein on Christmas Eve, 1818, the organist, Franz Gruber, composed a hymn called Song of Heaven and played and sang it in a church the following night. A man from a nearby town happened to hear the song and, being impressed, memorized the words and music which he later taught to a traveling quartet.

By 1854, the piece had become so famous that a search was made for its unknown composer and Gruber was found.

He then learned that his song had been “memorized,” sung for 36 years and had become the most beloved Christmas hymn of all time under another name – Silent Night. At that late date, the fact meant little to Franz Gruber, who was then 67, and he remained an obscure and impoverished organist until his death in 1863.



Recipes of the Month

Shrimp & Rice Casserole

1 lb raw, peeled shrimp
 1 c. uncooked rice
 1 can Rotel tomatoes
 1 can French Onion Soup
 1 can Cream of Celery Soup
 1 stick margarine, melted
 ½ can water

Combine all ingredients in casserole dish. Cover and cook at 350 degrees for one hour. Can be cooked without shrimp and used as the rice with gumbo.

Apple Cake

¾ c. sugar
 2 eggs
 ¾ stick of butter or margarine
 2 c. Presto (premixed flour) or 2 c. of flour plus 2 t. baking powder plus a pinch of salt
 2 t. vanilla

Mix all together. Put into a greased and floured jelly roll pan, 11 x 17. Spread evenly. Place sliced fresh apples evenly on the batter. Sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar, dot with butter. Bake at 375 degrees for 30 minutes.

This batter blends well with all kinds of fresh fruit; peaches, plums, apricots, or cherries. Canned fruit may be substituted, be sure to drain the fruit well.

Christ In The Lonely Hours

The lonely hours are his; Christ is there with you. Others may be remiss, though all your life has been poured out for them. They thoughtlessly forget, not meaning to, but only occupied with others things. But Christ is there; and when you

sense his presence and draw near, the loneliness is gone, your heart satisfied in Him.

As I Close The Door

Dear Lord, as I close the door on the old year,
 I ponder the things I've done...
 The things I've said and the joys I've had.
 I wonder, have I lost or won?
 I've thought of new friends I have made,
 and the old ones, staunch and true...
 the paths of the old year made easier, Lord,
 because I have walked them with you.
 I think of all the many times,
 when my burdens were so heavy to bear,
 and how my faith slipped away from me.
 but somehow you were always there.
 Now, as I open the door to this New Year,
 and carefully peep inside,
 I wonder what it holds for me...
 but I'll throw the door open wide.
 Whatever it brings to me and mine,
 I'll meet it with a heart so true...
 I know that, Lord, whate'er it may be,
 you'll be there to carry me through.
 -- Merrel Thompson



Upcoming Holiday Events:

December 1 - Silverhill Christmas in the Park
December 2 - Down Home Christmas
December 3 - Christmas Sing-a-long at Greenwood Covenant
December 8 - Youth Christmas Party
December 11 - Women's Christmas Salad Supper
December 17 - Sunday School Christmas Program
December 20 - Christmas Hayride & Weiner Roast

The Word Made Flesh

One dark night two thousand years ago, a child was born who has been called the light of the world. He came into the world that all people might see more clearly the saving love of God, and that they might respond to that love by loving God and loving one another more dearly. Christmas celebrates the fact that you and I have had the good fortune to have had that love made known to us.