

From: Michael Birnbaum

Subject: Living the Christmas Word!

To all our extended Living Word church family : **A Blessed, Blessed, Blessed Christmas!**

What a wonderful Christmas we were able to share Christmas Eve: candles, carols and God's Word! As the infamous year 2020 draws to a close, we were able to hear again the **comforting** Good News that God became "flesh and blood" so He could not only show us who He really is and what He is really like, but to be able to redeem us.

1. Please pray then reread **John 1:14**.

2. Here it is in a traditional **translation** (RSV): **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

3. Here it is in the contemporary **paraphrase** (not a translation) we used for the Christmas Eve sermon (The Message): **The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.**

4. Here are some "points to ponder":

--**Jesus is The Word** in human form,

--So He could live "in our neighborhood" **our LIVES.**

--Want to know "what God looks like" ? **Watch and follow Jesus!!**

--God did this **ONE TIME** for all time. **Jesus is the only way.**

--Need some grace and forgiveness in your life? The baby in the manger grew to be a man and died for all your sins --just ask for what He wants to give to you every day next year : **GRACE!**

--Tired of "fake news" and bad news? Look to Jesus -- He is the face of the loving God who came to love YOU! It's all true -- **the best news** we can hear and live as we struggle through these tough times. He became one of us to face our struggles **WITH** us.

5. **Sooooo....** maybe **this** Christmas, even now as you read this, would be a great time to simply close your eyes and ask **HIM to be born IN YOU again**. No matter how many years you have (or have not) been a Christian -- **let's all start over again this New Year -- WITH HIM.....**

6. The link for the special "Drummer Boy" carol several of you asked for is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5zBF-zPXpU>.

See you this Sunday, the FIRST Sunday of Christmas!

Be blessed and safe....

Pastor

Rev. Michael W. Birnbaum