



LIGHTHOUSE

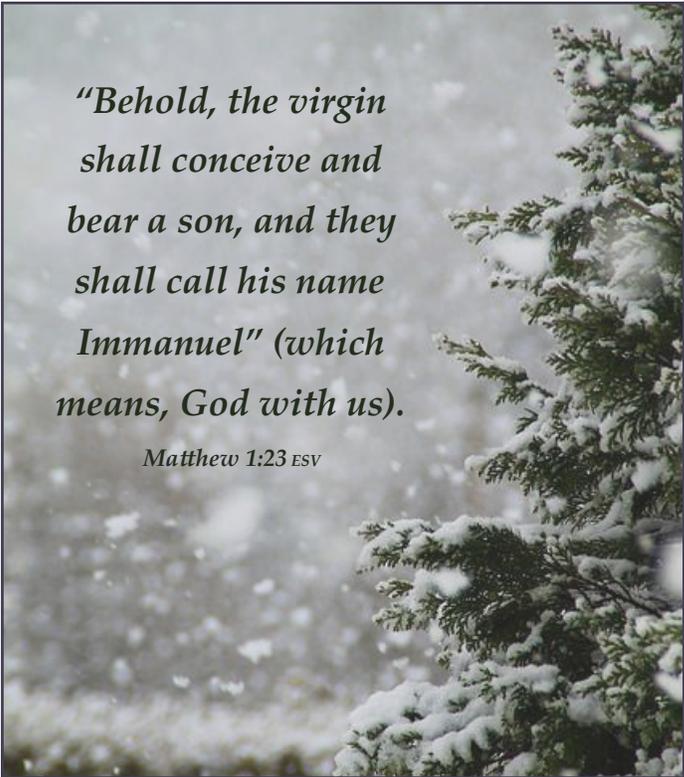
December 2021

Horeb Mar Thoma Church, Los Angeles
12741 Main Street, Garden Grove, CA 92840

LUKE 1: 28-33

The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

NIV



“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

Matthew 1:23 ESV

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Carol Rounds/Fellowship

West Area - Saturday, December 4th
South Area - Saturday, December 4th
East Area - Saturday, December 11th
Time & Details via email

Diocesan Bishop Visit & First Communicants Service

Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa will be visiting Horeb and conducting the First Communicants Holy Communion Service Saturday, December 18th - 10am - GGUMC

No Sunday School Classes
December 19th & December 26th

Christmas Carol Service
Sunday, December 19th - GGUMC



The First Christmas

by Dr. Thomas Mathew



“When they saw the star, they were overjoyed” – St. Matthew 2:10

My memories of those childhood nights, cold nights, mid-nights, waiting for the glowing stars (with candles inside) and the caroling with deep sounding drums always stir me and cheer me up! From the Holy Scripture, we learn that Immanuel- God with his children as man, our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem in Judea over two millenniums ago. This is the manifestation of Word in Flesh by which God’s eternal love, true character of our Heavenly Father was revealed to men on Earth. We celebrate the birth of our Savior every year with great joy and cherishing memories.

For God’s children, Christmas is not just a celebration, but assurance of salvation and eternal life by strengthening and rekindling our faith in the Lord, transmitting heavenly peace into our hearts, minds, and souls, instilling in us an unfading, “un-ending” experience.

The relevance of the “First Christmas” is significant in three ways.

It becomes relevant to our life when we know exactly “where” Jesus Christ is born!

...“and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.” –St. Luke 2:7.

Jesus was born in a manger. The poorest would find a better place! But God’s Word can become flesh anywhere God chooses because God’s love can transform any place to abode of eternal joy. Christmas is relevant to us only when Jesus is born in our heart- the manger in us! That is our true **“First Christmas.”** Then on, our Christmas celebration becomes meaningful. My **“First Christmas”** was 43 years ago in 1978 when I was seventeen! Christmas is relevant to us and our life only when Jesus is born **in our heart** because then comes into our life the real “Star- the Star of Righteousness” that leads us in righteousness, gives us joy and guides us to the right place.

It becomes relevant to our life when we know exactly “when” Jesus is born and very much so “why” Jesus is born!!

Jesus came to the world in the fullness of time when there was no hope for deliverance from the tyranny and sins of Rome’s world government and the people.

“So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world. But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.” – Galatians 4:3-5

Not only the people of Israel, but the whole world had been going through the darkness of tyranny and bondage. The advent of the promised Messiah was imminent to lighten the darkness and wipe away the tears!

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” – Isaiah 9:2.

Almighty Father brought us back into **His sonship and daughtership.** So, the First Christmas is the reinstatement of our sonship and daughtership.

Beloved brothers and sisters, don’t you think that we need this “First Christmas” right now if we did not have yet? We see the elements of darkness everywhere in the form of human pride and malice against our Father God’s will even in the grip of viruses and natural calamities. Let us join together to have our “First Christmas” inviting our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as master of our life or celebrate our “First Christmas” once more in love and unity.

“Peace on earth will come to stay, when we live Christmas every day.” – Helen Steiner Rice

“Thanks be to God for his unspeakable Gift.” – 2 Corinthians 9:15

May our Almighty Father fill us all with heavenly peace and joy of goodwill to men- life and salvation eternal through His unspeakable Gift, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May our Christmas gifts and presents speak out His love...

WORLD SUNDAY SCHOOL DAY

Sunday, November 7th, was observed as World Sunday School Day at Horeb MTC. Sunday School children participated in the service assisting with the special liturgy and also with the Bible readings. Dr. George (Sunny) Varghese was the guest speaker and gave a special message. Sunday School children were also awarded Certificates of Distinction for the Diocesan Exams.



YOUTH FELLOWSHIP THANKSGIVING MEETING

Horeb youths held their monthly Bible study at Ruth Simon's home on Friday, November 19th. Youths enjoyed fellowship and a Thanksgiving potluck as well.



VISITING ACHEN

Rev. Bijoy M. John, Vicar of the Mar Thoma Church of Los Angeles, conducted Holy Communion service at Horeb on Sunday, November 21st. It was his first visit to Horeb since being posted as Vicar of MTCLA. It was a joy to host Achen and his two children, Thejas and Mahima. Kochamma will be joining the family soon from India.



DECEMBER CALENDAR

All links to the virtual events and teleconference info will be provided via email.

WED DEC 1	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Western Regional MTVEA Prayer - Zoom
THU DEC 2	8:00pm - 9:00pm	Western Region Sevika Sangham Prayer Meeting - Zoom
SAT DEC 4	11:00am Start 3:00pm Start	West Area Carol Rounds South Area Carol Rounds - Details via email
SUN DEC 5	1:45pm - 3:00pm 3:00pm - 5:00pm	Sunday School - GGUMC Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC; General Body Meetings after service for Parish Mission, Sevika Sangham, Young Families Fellowship and Choir
SUN DEC 5	7:00pm - 8:00pm	First Communicants Class - Zoom
WED DEC 8	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Western Regional MTVEA Prayer - Zoom
SAT DEC 11	4:30pm - 6:00pm	Grieve and Grow Workshop - Zoom led by MTC Lay Chaplain, Pushpa Samuel (flyer on next page)
SAT DEC 11	6:00pm - 8:00pm	East Area Christmas Fellowship - Yorba Linda Community Center
SUN DEC 12	1:45pm - 3:00pm 3:00pm - 5:00pm	Sunday School - GGUMC Holy Communion Service (Malayalam) - GGUMC
TUE DEC 14	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Parish Prayer Fellowship/Bible Study - Zoom
WED DEC 15	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Western Regional MTVEA Prayer - Zoom
SAT DEC 18	10:00am - 1:30pm	Diocesan Bishop Visit & First Communicants Holy Communion Service - GGUMC
SUN DEC 19	2:30pm - 5:30pm	Christmas Carol Service - GGUMC
WED DEC 22	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Western Regional MTVEA Prayer - Zoom
SAT DEC 25	8:00am - 10:00am	Christmas Day Service - GGUMC
SUN DEC 26	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC
SUN DEC 26	5:00pm - 5:30pm	Sevika Sangham Mary's Kitchen Sandwich Prep - GGUMC, Room 20
TUE DEC 28	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Parish Prayer Fellowship/Bible Study - Zoom
WED DEC 29	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Western Regional MTVEA Prayer - Zoom
FRI DEC 31	6:00pm - 8:00pm	Watch Night Service - GGUMC



Please take a moment to make contributions to the church via Zelle; this includes Sunday offertory, birthday and wedding offertory, subscriptions, etc. Donations can quickly be made via your mobile bank app or through online banking.

The church email for Zelle is treasurer@horebmtc.org or checks can be sent to our Treasurer, Abey Mathews.

To contribute content, please contact:
Editorial Team: Anjali John and Saji Abraham

<http://www.horebmtc.org/>
Photography: Saji Baby & Saji Abraham



Mar Thoma Church
Diocese of North America
and Europe

Lay Chaplaincy Ministry presents

Grieve and Grow Workshop

Sat, Dec 11th
4:30 pm Pacific
via Zoom

Zoom Mtg ID:
889 9396 5618
Passcode:
743443

*Learning to Recognize
and Process Grief*

Host:
Pushpa Samuel, MDiv
MTC Lay Chaplain



Horeb's Parish Mission was pleased to present each family a copy of **The Gospel of Advent** booklet in appreciation for the prayers and generosity you have shown for the missionary work sponsored by Horeb's Parish Mission this year.

The booklet contains daily devotional readings and reflections to share with family & friends throughout the Advent season.

There is a digital version available to download at Christianitytoday.com website as well.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF...

Mrs. Saramma Koruth

Mrs. Saramma Koruth, younger sister of Thankamma Paul and maternal aunt of Anina Cholakath, was called to her heavenly abode on October 29th. Let us uphold the grieving family in our prayers.