

Study Questions for December 13, 2015 morning sermon

Matthew 2:9-11a:

“Welcome Home”

Part three: The Message of the Manger

Read Matthew 2:9 and try to imagine the wise men standing in front of the holy house with the star directly above it. How do you think they felt? Do you think they sensed God’s love for them?

Did Jesus come to extend God’s love to us? Read Romans 5:8 and Titus 3:4-7.

Reflect on this line from Mozart’s Requiem: “Remember, merciful Jesu, that I am the cause of your journey.”

Do you experience God’s heart of unconditional love for you this Christmas?

Read Matthew 2:10. How is God’s welcome home the joy of both heaven and earth? (Read Zephaniah 3:17 and Luke 15:3-7).

Do you believe God rejoices over you with loud singing? Or do you envision Him as disappointed with you or maybe even angry at you? Which of these ideas of God do you live with?

Discuss this statement: “Jesus Christ is the joy of God’s love in our hearts.” How can this be? Read Luke 1:44, 46-47.

Who is Jesus Christ according to John 12:45 and 14:8-11?

Read Matthew 2:11a. Once they stepped into the house and saw baby Jesus and Mary, they must have felt something akin to God’s total acceptance.

Do you know this kind of divine acceptance? Does your church family (as the holy family did for the wise men) help you experience God’s welcome home and acceptance?

Do you think Carmel church extends God’s “welcome home” to everyone who comes to our worship services?

Does the teaching of Romans 5:5 resonate with you?

Why is it a lifelong journey to grow in God’s homecoming love and acceptance?