

Dec 20 | Sunday

Mercy - God of the Second Chance

Jeremiah 31:31-34, Matthew 1:18-21



21 | Mon – God’s mercy offers a new beginning | Read Jeremiah 31:31-34

Jeremiah grieved over Israel’s unfaithfulness which would lead them into judgement and exile, but he also looked to a future when God would make a *new* covenant with His people. A future where laws would be written on the heart and each person could know the Lord. Do you need a new future? It starts by getting to know God better (James 4:8).

22 | Tue – The true peace giver | Read Luke 2:1-20

We are so familiar with the angel’s message that we may miss how astounding it was. Listen as if you have never heard these words before: *“Do **NOT** be afraid! I bring you **GOOD** news of **GREAT** joy for **ALL** people. **TODAY** in David’s city, a **SAVIOR** has been born to **YOU**. He is Christ the Messiah, the long awaited One!”* What part of this amazing proclamation brings you the greatest sense of peace?

23 | Wed – Joseph, the protector | Read Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph is an often-unsung hero. Although Mary had become pregnant by the Holy Spirit, to human eyes it looked like any normal pregnancy. Can you imagine the feelings Joseph must have struggled with? Yet because of the angel’s encouragement, Joseph gave their relationship a second chance. His choice protected Mary’s life. When have you had to ‘man up’ and do the right thing no matter how difficult it was? How did God help you?

24 | Thu – Magi from the East searching | Read Matthew 2:1-6

The wise men from the East were not ‘kings’ but students of the stars. Their search was for a new King who might bring the world a fresh start. And what an irony. The priests and legal experts could easily identify where the Messiah would be born but it was the foreign astronomers who said, “We have come to honor Him.” To which group do you belong? How is that reflected in your life today?

25 | Fri – Magi from the East finding | Read Matthew 2:7-12

What commitment! These men traveled possibly 18-24 months, following that star. Have you ever chased long and hard after a dream and then had it fulfilled? If so, you can imagine the incredibly joy these men felt when they found the baby. Although Jesus was the child of a poor peasant couple, living in a house instead of a palace, it did not diminish joy of the Magi. Can you see past sometimes stark realities to great joy awaiting?

26 | Sat – Joseph saves Jesus | Read Matthew 2:13-18

Joseph did more than just stand by the manger when the shepherds came or open the door when the Magi arrived. He was God’s appointed human protector for Mary and Jesus. He listened and followed what the angel said. Joseph’s actions saved his family, even though it meant fleeing in the opposite direction from home. Do you sometimes feel like a supporting actor in the movie of life? Be faithful and see how God will use you.

December 27 | Sun – Wonder: The King Comes | Read Psalms 72:11-15, Matthew 2



Hastings United Methodist Church