

“I Dare You” -Message for Christmas Eve, December 2010

A young girl becomes pregnant, and the God of Miracles says, “I dare you to believe it.”

Her fiancé decides to marry her anyhow, and the God of Encouragement says, “I dare you to trust me.”

They go to Bethlehem for a census only to find shelter in a stable, and the God of Provision says, “I dare you to accept this.”

The boy is quietly born amid donkeys, sheep and cows, and the God of Irony says, “I dare you to believe you are the King of Peace.”

Shepherds see a star and feel compelled to find the boy and the God of Guidance says, “I dare you to follow it.”

Wise men hear something big has happened in Bethlehem – so they take a long journey, and the God of Celebration says, “I dare you to honor him.”

The boy grows to be a man who becomes a model for peace, justice, hope and forgiveness, and the God of Righteousness says, “I dare you to live My Way.”

After three years of ministry, the man is crucified – three days later his body is nowhere to be found, and the God of Salvation says, “I dare you to believe in an empty tomb.”

More than two thousand years later, we hear the story again in a weary world full of pain, loneliness, worry, fear, and greed, and the God of Hope says, “I dare you to believe I am still with you – that I haven’t forgotten you.”

“And I dare you to remember my Son, and to live as he did for the benefit of others in my name.”

“And I dare you to remember I forgive you, through the sacrifice of my Son’s life for yours.”

“And because of all I have done for you through the birth, life and sacrifice of my Son Jesus, **I dare you to love one another - no matter how unlovable -- as I have loved you.**”

“I dare you...”

Amen.