**For the past two weeks, I’ve shared with you about my friend Keith and his wife Bonnie, who are expecting their first child. Well, I’ve got good news to share with you this morning. James Robert came into the world earlier this week weighing in at 7 lb. 5 oz and 20 ¾ inches long. Both mother and child are doing just fine and were released out of the hospital on Thursday just in time to be home for Christmas. It sure is an exciting time for both Keith and Bonnie, as they make their life transition of being parents for the 1st time in welcoming baby James into their lives.**

**As you know most hospital would customarily take footprints of the newborn baby and put them on a card along with the baby’s birth information unofficially authenticating the baby’s arrival into this world. Every time I see these newborn footprint images, it reminds me of what a wonderful and beautiful creation a human being is, just as God created. But it also brings to mind of what the future journey of this newborn child may look like. What kind of life will this child have going forward? How the world will look like when the child grows up? These questions will undoubtedly cross our minds as we pledge our full support and all of our loves and blessings to walk with this newborn child.**

**These Christmas babies surely bring us great joy and happiness especially during this time of the year. It seems that Christmas and babies are synonymous. Personally, I have 4 nieces and nephews of my cousins who are born right around Christmas. They remind us of what the true meaning of Christmas is all about, as we re-read the birth narrative each year like we did last night. No matter how many times we have heard the birth narrative, it brings us new insights and deepens our understanding of why Christ was sent to us in first place and under the most unique circumstances. This was all part of God’s plan since the beginning of time.**

**Christmas is about the birthing miracle that God has sent upon us in human form. It is about God reaching out to us seeking to resolve our differences and beginning a new chapter of our relationship. God has invited us to walk along this newborn Christ-child, as He began his new journey of life with us here in this world.**

**The fact that this year Christmas also falls on the Lord’s Day deepens the significance and the reason why we are called to gather here this morning. I know many churches have a tradition of meeting and worshipping on Christmas Day as well. After all, if Christmas is about spending time with one’s family, as we experience with the Holy Family of Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus, what better way is to spend time among God’s family on Christmas Day? We’ve come this morning because we want to see and experience the newborn king on this day, just as the shepherds who were minding their own business but heard the angels’ sing as they come and pay their homage.**

**Some of us may have travelled far in order to be here, and I don’t mean that physically but spiritually as well. Some of us may have to prioritize our “other” agendas in order for us to be here. Nevertheless, we are here because God called each one of us and God has made space for us to be here, with one common purpose…as we bear witness and testimony of his miracle birth that has taken place. That’s why we are gathered here this morning!!! We want to see this Christ-Child’s beautiful feet, as he embarks on this earthly journey with us.**

**As we read from our Old Testament lesson earlier, the prophet Isaiah described to us the coming of a messenger who would announce peace, bring good news, and hope of salvation to all humankind.** This set of beautiful feet would bring peace among the nations, justice upon those who are oppressed, hope for those who are in despair. The people’s waiting will soon be over, their captivity would be lifted, and the dawning of a new day has come.[[1]](#footnote-1) **“***For a child has been born for us, a son given; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.[[2]](#footnote-2)*

These beautiful feet of the Messiah-child would eventually walk through the region of Galilee, listen to the cries of those who are suffering, proclaim the good news of God’s salvation among those who needed to hear the most. These beautiful feet would also take on the cross to redeem the sins of humanity. This Messiah child was God’s chosen messenger to humanity, in human form, as we also read from the gospel of John which opened not with a birth narrative, but with these words… *“The Word has become flesh and has now come to live among us.”[[3]](#footnote-3)* Indeed, the incarnate Word is living among us today! God’s messenger of salvation has come!

In the same way, all of us here today are called to be God’s messenger to others. We have been equipped not only with “beautiful feet”, but with beautiful hands, voices and hearts to proclaim peace in this world that seems to be chaotic at times. These beautiful feet would announce the coming of one’s salvation through the birth of this Christ-child. Together through our actions and our lives, we declared that our God reigns![[4]](#footnote-4)

The Apostle Paul affirmed to us that we’re not the ones who grant salvation to others, however we ARE God’s hands and feet who would bring this true message of hope of Christmas to all of humankind. Many still have not heard. Many still have not seen, and many still have not had the opportunity to proclaim…that Jesus Christ is Lord.

As the Apostle Paul wrote to the early church in Rome *13 For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." 14 But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? 15 And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written,* ***"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!****"*[[5]](#footnote-5)

God used the shepherds to be the first evangelists – the term evangelist means, the ones who bring or speak the good news. They used their feet to walk through the wilderness and to bring this great news of joy and hope to the ends of the world. These shepherds could speak their language and relate to common folks better than anyone else. They didn’t have access to modern technology to broadcast their message like we have today. They did it the old fashion way…they walked with their feet, house to house, person to person. They proclaimed with their voices of what had taken place in the city of David on this Christmas Day.

 Friends, God has continued to challenge us to be on this same mission as the shepherds, some 2,000+ years later. **Christ has exemplified his selfless act by washing the beautiful feet of his disciples and has sent us out into the world in order to wash the beautiful feet of others.** We may have some big shoes to fill ahead of us until Christ comes again, but as the angels assured Mary when she said “yes” to God, *“nothing is impossible with God”.*

With our **“Beautiful Feet”** God has promises us that He will walk with us till the end wherever we may go. The birth of Christ was not just a one-time event that happened some 2000+ years ago in a little town called Bethlehem. Whenever and wherever Christ’s name is proclaimed, Christmas happens. Whenever we bring cheers of joy and hopeful smiles upon someone’s heart, Christ is there among us. Whenever we carry out acts of kindness and extend God’s compassion upon others, Christ’s humility is exemplified and our calling as Christ’s ambassadors is fulfilled.

Jesus the Christ is the greatest gift that God has packaged for us, wrapped in swaddling clothes. Christ is also the gift that we must not keep for ourselves. We must share Christ the gift with others…using our beautiful feet, and our beautiful voices!

 So, let us keep on **walking** with our beautiful feet. Keep on **proclaiming** that our Savior has been born. Keep on **hearing** the good news. Keep on **believing** in the truth. Keep on **calling** the name that is above all names, so that others may come to be **saved** through Him. As one theologian summed up this way, “*We are called to be John the Baptist - the proclaimer, the messenger, as we live to testify to God’s light and love in the world.[[6]](#footnote-6)*

Through Christ, God has become one of us. ***The Word has become flesh and is living among us.****[[7]](#footnote-7)* Through the sending of His Son, God has sent us a distinctive message of LOVE. Christmas is God’s Valentine’s Day for us. The brokenness and eternal separation between God and humanity have now been reconciled. Out of the ruins and the rubbles, the people shall rise once again through the promises of new hope of returning to their homeland. Those who are in mourning shall be comforted and suffering shall reign no more.

*The Word has become flesh and is living among us.*

*We have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son,*

*full of grace and truth.[[8]](#footnote-8)*

May God’s glory continue to shine upon us not only on this day but through the days ahead until Christ comes once again. Christ has come, Christ’s spirit is here among us right now, and Christ will come again. Have a blessed and purposeful celebration of the birth of Christ. Thanks be to God. In the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, Amen.

1. Saliers, Don E. *Feasting on the Word Year A, Volume 1* P.122 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *Isaiah 9:6* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *John 1:14* [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. *Isaiah 57:7* [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. *Romans 10:13-15* [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Klink, Aaron *Feasting on the Word, Year A Volume 1,* P.142 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. *John 1:14* [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. *John 1:14* [↑](#footnote-ref-8)