

Sermon Series: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
"Desire of the Nations"
by Rev. John C. Tittle

Scripture Readings:

Haggai 2:6-7 KJV

⁶For thus saith the Lord of hosts; yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; ⁷and I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts.

For a delightful reading of our gospel passage, you can listen to Linus' reading of Luke from a *Charlie Brown Christmas* here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVp5AGte_4Q

Luke 2: 8-14 KJV

⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.' ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Discussion Questions:

1. What jumps out at you in our readings?
2. Who are your favorite characters in the Christmas story?
3. The prophet Haggai talks about a shaking that will happen. What do you think that is?
4. What kind of shaking have you gone through in 2020?
5. Haggai then says that after the shaking, the Desire of Nations shall come and fill this house with glory. Why does shaking often need to happen before the glory happens?
6. Why is the birth of Christ good tidings of great joy to all the people?
7. How has Jesus, the Prince and King of peace brought peace to the nations at his first coming? How has he brought good will?
8. In what ways will the Prince and King of Peace bring peace when he comes again?
9. What is on your Christmas Prayer List this year?