

Bay City Wesleyan Church
December 17, 2017

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Sunday Morning 12-17-2017

Our Challenge for 2017 is to regularly ask Jesus, "Am I following you?"

When was the last time you asked?

<http://bible.com/events/329972>

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[Image]

Sunday, December 24 at 10:45 AM - 11:59 AM

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FREE Tickets for Christmas by the Bay

Enjoy the sights, songs, and smells of Christmas. Hear the story like it's the very first time. Cookies, coffee, and hot cocoa to share afterwards. Bring your family to a Christmas Eve experience you'll all enjoy and have the rest of the day to celebrate together. Perhaps you'll start a new tradition. Get your FREE tickets now.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-by-the-bay-tickets-39735145891>

[Image]

Our advent sermon series

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"A Simple Christmas" is a 4-week series encouraging us to keep Christmas simple by focusing on God's peace, joy, love, and our response of faith in Jesus. The series concludes with the message at Christmas by the Bay.

Who do you know that needs simple faith in Jesus? Invite them. Better yet, bring them, so simple faith transforms their lives.

During this season of Advent and Christmas, we're asking, "How can we enjoy a simple Christmas? How can we experience simple love, simple joy, simple peace, and simple faith?"

Luke 1:11-13 NLT

While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar. Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him. But the angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John.

<https://bible.com/bible/116/luk.1.11-13.NLT>

Luke 1:26-31 NLT

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus.

<https://bible.com/bible/116/luk.1.26-31.NLT>

Matthew 1:18-21 NLT

This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

<https://bible.com/bible/116/mat.1.18-21.NLT>

Luke 2:8-10 NLT

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people."

<https://bible.com/bible/116/luk.2.8-10.NLT>

John 14:27 NIV

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

<https://bible.com/bible/111/jhn.14.27.NIV>

Sermon in a Sentence:

When you know Jesus, you know everything you need to know to know peace.

- Jesus offers you peace with your PAST.
- Jesus offers you peace with your FUTURE.
- Jesus offers you peace with your PRESENT.

Peace " Jesus" gift of well-being " can be yours if you are courageous enough to risk more despite your past, to relax more as you face your future, and to rejoice more as you walk with him each moment.