



# The Elim Scribe



## Reflections from Pr Bruce ~

### Merry Christmas!



Longing. Leaning forward with anticipation. Anxiously waiting yet with intense impatience! All of these reflect what Advent is about. These feelings reflect a discontentment with the way things are for the moment. Waiting is not easy! Still, they reflect a sense of hope for change and improvement that might be just around the corner.

This Advent all those feelings seem appropriate as we wait with bated breath for things to improve. That is reminiscent of the people of God in the Old Testament, and the children of God down through the ages. The story of hope continues!

The Old Testament reading for the first Sunday in Advent reflects that longing in a very real way.

*“Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down,  
that the mountains might quake at Your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make Your name known to your adversaries,  
and that the nations might tremble at Your presence!”*      Isaiah 64:1-2

We long for God to “rend the heavens and come down” and make everything right by destroying the bad guys! — Come and fix this mess!

And that is the wonder of Advent and Christmas. Instead of an earth-shaking coming of God, it equates to a world-changing coming of God—God has come among us as one of us—through the quiet, unassuming Child of Bethlehem. Quiet change. Subtle difference. Almost imperceptible. Yet, it is the wonder of God’s intervention that somehow, mysteriously and genuinely changes us and the world. The wonder is that it involves and includes us. We are part of the change. We celebrate that!



May the hope, joy and anticipation of that first Christmas spark new life and zest in us this year!

Merry Christmas!  
Pastor Bruce Kolasch

## Plans for Christmas Eve Services

Elim's Christmas Eve this year will be celebrated as an “open house” from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. during which time people can come and go as they choose, listen to Christmas carols, sit, pray, and receive Holy Communion at the altar. If you are unable to attend this or if you want to reminisce online, you can find (at <https://youtu.be/lZZ-7P3gMzU>) a short video spanning the last verse of *Silent Night* from last year's candlelight service.

## Holiday Giving Opportunities

Over the years, Elim has participated in several charitable opportunities to share our gifts with others less fortunate. With new restrictions in place to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, we will be unable to participate as a congregation. However, if you would like to practice your traditional holiday gift-giving, here is a list (not exhaustive by any means) of groups and organizations which would welcome your generous contributions to help us all through the current struggle.

- Ogden Rescue Mission, 2775 Wall Ave, Ogden, UT 84401- <https://ogdenrescuemission.org/>
- Lantern House, 269 W 33 Street, Ogden, UT 84401 - <https://www.stannescenter.org/>
- Salvation Army - [give.salvationarmyusa.org/give](https://give.salvationarmyusa.org/give)



- Lutheran World Relief - lwr.org

Toy drives for children welcome cash contributions and/or purchased toys for distribution. The Marines are still doing "Toys for Tots" with online donations. Locally, Les Schwab stores (working with Youth Impact) are collecting new, unwrapped toys. Lantern House is sponsoring a "Miracle on 33rd St." program for the children they serve. Ogden-Weber Community Action Partnership is hosting a Community Christmas, and The Ogden Christmas Box House will also collect toys for children. Check with these organizations for information; remember that they will have deadlines in early December.



Members' news:

- ~ Welcome to Elim's new member, Mrs. Lucille Rossbach! We look forward to a time when we'll meet in person.
- ~ Congratulations to Pr Rick Brenton, who has accepted a part-time position as a chaplain at Ogden Regional Medical Center.

Congratulations to our "sister" congregation at Ascension Lutheran, as they are very excited to welcome their new pastor, Pr Debra Jimenez. She and her husband, James, will be joining them the first part of December, settling into a new home in West Haven. They are relocating from Hobbs, New Mexico. The hope is that, if all the planets align, she will be there for the December 6th Advent Service. Ascension holds an in-person service at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings for those who prefer that type of worship; the at-risk population worships online.

Wishing you many blessings ~ including a safe and healthy holiday season!



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE - 2019



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ELIM LUTHERAN CHURCH