



The Messenger

The Gift Goes On

**Come worship the gift of Jesus on
December 18 at 11:00 am**

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You're invited to join us for a morning of worship and praise as the Adult & Children's choirs present "The Gift Goes On" cantata.

Let's celebrate the everlasting gift of Jesus Christ and remember that He is the true gift!



Stitching with Love Ministry
meets every 1st Thursday
December 1 at 9am -12pm.

Men's Prayer Breakfast
Every 2nd Saturday of each month.
December 10 at 8 am

Sr. Saints Fellowship
meets every 3rd Tuesday
December 20 at 11:00 am

From the Pastor's Desk



James Mason Neale published a hymnal in 1851. He was an English minister and songwriter. In his hymnal, he included a song based on Matthew 1:23. Original Neale's hymn said, "Draw nigh, draw nigh, Emmanuel." Today our Baptist hymnal has, "O come, O come, Emmanuel." It sounds different from most of the other Christmas hymnals we sing.

Neale was a man who was the son of an Anglican pastor. He attended Cambridge University. He was ordained as an Anglican minister in 1841. Neale was a brilliant student and an award-winning poet. Because he was also in poor health and had questionable theological views he was never assigned to a parish.

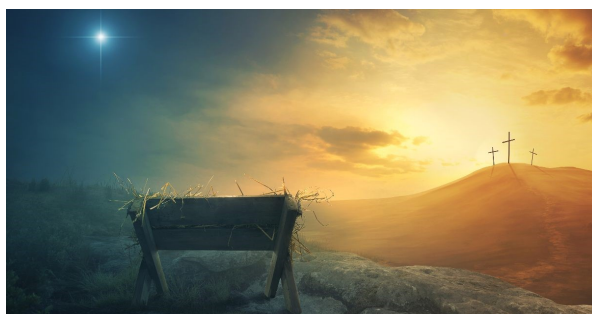
He was appointed as the director of Sackville, a home for the elderly in Grinstead, Sussex. It was a perfect job for Neale because it gave him time to study and write. It also gave him a chance to minister to those in the home.

He was a high church traditionalist and disliked the new songs written by men like Isaac Watts. He argued for a return to dignity and traditional church music. He also opposed the new church buildings, as he favored the cathedrals. He was even opposed to the ugly heating stoves that spoiled the tastefulness and charm of the sanctuary. He translated many old hymns from Latin and Greek.

In our hymnal, those old disagreements have been forgotten and Neale and Watts are side-by-side. We can rejoice as we sing "O come, O come, Emmanuel. At Christmas, we celebrate. "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, as "God with us."

May God bless each of you with a wonderful Christmas, and may the joy of knowing that Christ is with you guide you in the New Year!

Terry Fortner



Waiting for Christmas

What was it like waiting for Christmas as a child? Was there a special gift you were hoping to open? Remember that feeling of hopeful expectation?

Since the exile to Babylon, the people of God waited expectantly almost 600 years for the promised Messiah to reestablish His

kingdom. Then, the angel Gabriel visited Mary with a message: *"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."* —Luke 1:31-33 ESV

Here was finally the fulfillment of the promise. The Messiah was coming. But Mary was unmarried. She was a virgin. How could she give birth to the Son of the Most High? Gabriel explained that the child would be conceived by the power of God, and therefore called the Son of God. Even Mary's barren relative, Elizabeth had become pregnant, "for nothing will be impossible with God" (vs. 37). When Mary later visited her, Elizabeth prophesied over the young woman, saying, "And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord" (vs. 45).

The Jews believed in the coming Messiah, and Mary believed in the message of Gabriel. They waited for the fulfillment of God's promises. Too often we give up on waiting. We don't expect God to surprise us, let alone to do what he promised. Jesus taught his disciples that only those who receive the kingdom of God like a child will enter (Mark 10:15). Let's remember what it was like to have the simple faith of a child believing that good things were to come. Hold on to it and wait expectantly for God to show up.

Copied from World Venture Simple Christmas Devotions
Emily Roth serves in Spain. Learn more at worldventure.com/eroth

Youth, Children & Other Happenings

Weekly Youth Gatherings

Wednesday Night *Switch* Services
Music and a devotion from 6:30-7:30pm

Invite your friends and come join us!

Update from Brother Rich

Zion Hill Family,

Over the course of the past two years you have been my church home and family. The people I serve and serve with. We have been through Covid, a blizzard, block party's, VBS, Church Camp, lock-ins, and many more fun adventures. I appreciate All the support you've given me and Haley since we have been here.

Zion Hill will always hold a special place in my heart. ZHBC was my first experience in full time ministry. I had done volunteering, internships, and interim roles but being full time is different. The parsonage was the first house I ever lived in by myself. I got my dog, Koa Bean, while at Zion Hill. Haley and I started dating, got engaged by the pond, and married while we were at Zion Hill. We've made so many friends and bonds over the last couple years. I have seen your kids grow in height and in faith! I have got to serve with people who love the Lord just as I do. I have seen your students come to know Jesus and get baptized here. Zion Hill will always be a special place to me.

From the first time I stepped in this church and preached as a 23 year old who didn't know anyone, to the 26 year old I am now who has matured greatly during his time, I thank you. Thank you for welcoming me and Haley. Thank you for caring about us. Thank you for sending prayers our way. Thank you for serving the Lord.

We will miss Zion Hill, but we are excited to take on this new venture God has in store for us at Geyer Springs. Thank you

With love, Bro. Richard and Haley



Children's Choir Practice
meets
Sundays at 6:00 pm

School's Out

- CABOT December 19—January 2
- PCSSD December 22—January 2
- JNP December 21—January 4

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(See Luke 2:1-16)

12-19-2014

IT HAD A STAR ON TOP SO I FIGURED IT
SHOULD HAVE A MANGER AT THE BOTTOM

Christmas Gatherings

Kids Christmas Party
December 10 from
10 am –12 pm

Searchers SS Party
December 8 at 11 am

Co Ed Christmas Party
December 16 at 6 pm

Christmas Candlelight
Service
December 23 at 6 pm



Zion Hill Baptist Church
Service Times

Sunday

9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship
11:30 am Children's Worship (in the Fellowship Hall)
6:00 pm Growth Group (Fellowship Hall)
6:00 pm Youth Bible Study (Basement)

Tuesday

10:00 am Tuesday Bible Study

Wednesday

5:45pm Wednesday Night Meal
6:30 pm Mid-Week Services
Bible Study & Prayer Meeting
(3rd Wednesday is Business Meeting)
GA's, RA's, Mission Friends,
Youth *Switch* Service

December

1 9:00 am Stitching with Love Ministry
4 8:00 am Deacon's Meeting
4 Sunday Services—Lord's Supper
4 2:00 pm Bridges Wedding Shower
7 5:45 pm Wednesday Night Meal
7 6:30 pm Midweek Services
8 11:00 am Searchers Sunday School Class Party
10 8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
10 10:00 am Children's Christmas Party
11 Sunday Services
14 5:45 pm Wednesday Night Meal
14 6:30 pm Midweek Services
16 6:00 pm Co-Ed Christmas Party
18 Sunday Services
18 12:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting
18 5:00 pm Caregiver Ministry Meeting
20 10:00 am Tuesday Bible Study w/ Sr. Saints Program
21 9:30 am Extension Homemakers Club Meeting
21 5:45 pm Wednesday Night Meal
21 6:30 pm Midweek Services—Business Meeting
23 6:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Service
25 Sunday Services—11:00 am worship service only
28 No Midweek Service
31 6:00 pm New Years Eve Southern Gospel Western Roundup at Bayou Meto Baptist Church

December Activities



Zion Hill Baptist Church

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Recent videos of Zion Hill's Sunday services can be viewed at www.zionhillcabot.com/sermons

Merry Christmas



*Senior Saints Tuesday Fellowships are Back!
Every Third Tuesday at 11:00 am
Come for Bible Study at 10 am and stay for fellowship!*

Wednesday Night Meals are Back!



5:45—6:15 pm Cost is only \$4.00 per person to help cover food costs. Plan on joining us for this fellowship meal before Bible Study each Wednesday. You'll get fed in body and in spirit!

If you're not currently receiving email prayer requests and information updates and you would like to be added to the list, please let Karla know. You can email me at zionhillbc@gmail.com to be added to the list.