

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday December 16, 2024 - Micah 5: 2

2 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

Read Micah 5 for meditation and inspiration.



ADVENT THREE - JOY

Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

As the Russian invasion of Ukraine continues, it can be difficult for us to find a sense of hope in the world – a sense that there are people of integrity who know deep down inside who they are and what God has created them to do with their lives. We are reminded daily that millions of Ukrainians are compelled to flee their country. And saddest of all is that most refugees are women and children. Mothers with young children have been forced to leave behind husbands and fathers who remain to defend their homeland. And yet, amid all the uncertainty and loss, there have been moments of hope and resilience in Ukraine and around the world as strangers come together to help those in need.

A photojournalist who traveled to a train station in Poland, hoping to document the arrival of refugees, noticed one such example of hope. There he saw a line of empty strollers, some of which contained blankets and clothes. The strollers were left behind by Polish parents for Ukrainian mothers fleeing with babies. “I thought of them both, about the solidarity of those who brought the strollers and the dramatic stories of mothers fleeing the war,” the journalist said. He snapped a photo and uploaded it to social media. It wasn’t long before the powerful image went viral. “There is a strong feeling of solidarity,” he said. The images emerging from Ukraine have been staggering. Perhaps most astounding have been the countless examples of courage, heroism, and generosity of everyday citizens — especially Ukrainian women." -1

In the darkest hours of war, we see in real-time the brightest examples of hope from those who desire deep down inside to be completely and fully the persons God created them to be. As Christians, this is the message of peace that we are called to reflect.

As God's Christmas gift Jesus Christ comes to you as the Prince of Peace. He brings you the gift of peace. It is available to you now, for peacemakers will inherit the earth.

In God's Shalom

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger".

Roger