

**Message: Good News**

**What image comes to mind when I say the phrase “beautiful feet”?**

Most of us don't think of feet as beautiful, particular the dirty, dusty feet of a messenger on the mountains. Sounds a bit odd until you think about the way information traveled in Jesus' day. Most people didn't read or write. There was no postal service for those who did write. Messages were brought by friends or travelers who would come and visit.

**A messenger is someone who has traveled a distance with effort, taking time and energy to do so.** The message must be important. In Jesus' time, there was little communication with outside world other than by word of mouth, so messengers played an important role and their visits were looked forward to so news of the world could be shared, good and bad. This was true for large towns and especially for small towns, like Bethlehem and Nazareth.

**Angels are God's messengers, created by God for that purpose.** One example is the angel Gabriel, who visited Mary and told her, *“Nothing is too wondrous for God.”* Angels also appeared to the shepherds on the hillside, proclaiming God's glory to the world, *“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”*

**The prophets were messengers.** God revealed a part of the plan and gave them a vision for the kingdom of heaven, where people live with the whole lives, side-by-side with all kinds of people. They live together with peace and harmony, with no sign of evil or wrongdoing.

**We, too, are God's messengers.** We're given good news to share with everyone. The good news is simply this: God has come into the world to be with us and to save us, because God loves us. What a simple, yet powerful message. We aren't alone. God knows what we're dealing with. And God came to help us, to give us future beyond our wildest dreams. Even better, God came to give us a real, full life, here and now.

**All we have to do is believe and accept God's love.** It's as simple as holding someone you love in your arms. I pray you accept the prince of peace in your heart today. And that you'll share that gift with others.

**Merry Christmas!**

Let us pray ...

*Almighty God, on this day we come to you humbled by the gift you've given to us, Jesus. He's a gift greater than any we could ever imagine. That's because what we hope for is limited by our human views. We're grateful that you have no limits, Lord. The gift you give has the greatest meaning and purpose of all. It's the gift of living water, of spiritual life that transcends physical and material boundaries. It sets us free from the influence of evil, cleanses us from the wrongs that we do, and purifies us so that our relationship with you is once again strong and true. Help us to share this gift with others without fear or reservation and, in so doing, to be part of your mission to bring peace on Earth. To you be the glory and honor! We pray this in name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. Amen.*

**Isaiah 52:7-10 (CEB)**

How beautiful upon the mountains

are the feet of a messenger  
who proclaims peace,  
who brings good news,  
who proclaims salvation,  
who says to Zion, “Your God rules!”

Listen! Your lookouts lift their voice;  
they sing out together!

Right before their eyes they see the LORD returning to Zion.

Break into song together, you ruins of Jerusalem!

The LORD has comforted his people and has redeemed Jerusalem.

The LORD has bared his holy arm in view of all the nations;  
all the ends of the earth have seen our God's victory.

**John 1:1-14 (CEB)**

In the beginning was the Word  
and the Word was with God  
and the Word was God.

The Word was with God in the beginning.  
Everything came into being through the Word,  
and without the Word  
nothing came into being.

What came into being  
through the Word was life,  
and the life was the light for all people.

The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

A man named John was sent from God. He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light.

The true light that shines on all people  
was coming into the world.

The light was in the world,  
and the world came into being through the light,  
but the world didn't recognize the light.

The light came to his own people,  
and his own people didn't welcome him.

But those who did welcome him,  
those who believed in his name,  
he authorized to become God's children,  
born not from blood  
nor from human desire or passion,  
but born from God.

The Word became flesh  
and made his home among us.

We have seen his glory,  
glory like that of a father's only son,  
full of grace and truth.