

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2017

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## **SERMON NOTES**

Bethlehem Sunday

Revelation 12:1-9

Isaiah 11:1-9

**In 1993...**

**A great sign appeared in heaven...**

**Maranatha...**

*"Look up, you whose gaze is fixed on this earth, who are spellbound by the little events and changes on the face of the earth. Look up to these words, you who have turned away from heaven disappointed. Look up, you whose eyes are heavy with tears. Look up, you who, burdened with guilt, cannot lift your eyes. Look up, your redemption is drawing near. Something different from what you see daily will happen. Just be aware, be watchful, wait just another short moment. Wait and something quite new will break over you:*

*God will come."*

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

**A little child will lead them...**

## The gift of hope...

*I am personally the victim of deferred dreams, of blasted hopes, but in spite of that I still have a dream, because, you know, you can't give up in life. If you lose hope, somehow you lose that vitality that keeps life moving, you lose that courage to be, that quality that helps you go on in spite of all. And so today I still have a dream... I still have a dream today that one day war will come to an end, that men will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks, that nations will no longer rise up against nations, neither will they study war any more... I still have a dream that with this faith we will be able to adjourn the councils of despair and bring new light into the dark chambers of pessimism. With this faith we will be able to speed up the day when there will be peace on earth and good will toward men. It will be a glorious day, the morning stars will sing together, and the sons of God will shout for joy.*

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

## **Additional Notes:**

### **Questions for further thought, conversation and reflection...**

- What makes “Bethlehem Revisited” such a beloved tradition, for our church family and the Coral Springs community?
- What does the Christmas season mean to you?
- What are you hoping for – for yourself, your family, our community, the world - as Christmas 2017 approaches?
- How does the Christmas story give you hope?
- Who could you invite to serve/attend Bethlehem Revisited this year?