



ELIZABETHTOWN
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

PRACTICING PEACE, SERVICE AND OPENNESS TO ALL

A Seuss Christmas

Gospel of Luke

By Pastor Greg Davidson Laszakovits

Message from December 24, 2018

777 South Mount Joy Street
Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania 17022
717-367-1000
www.ETOWNCOB.ORG

Started long ago it did, this moment that changed the world
Exponential love alive, our true design unfurled...

In a land of holy mystery, we think this time of year
A couple forced to journey to a place that was not near.
A king and his mandate, the people he would count
To levy all the taxes, up to the full and even fuller amount!

Twas not just any journey, as you'll hear in this kind rhyme
Twas a kairos moment that changed the stars, all in God's
good time.

Mary was her name, and visited was she
By a God-spirit who announced with child she would be
"Greetings favored one!", it must've been a fright
But Mary, this amazing woman she heard it with delight

"My soul magnifies the Lord!" That was *her* reply
I'm blessed and blessed and blessed as high as mountains
high
And not just any child, this one he will be different
Share God's love and grace, everyone under God's great tent

God has set a new world order, where the lowly poor are fed
And the powerful, rich and haughty may face uncertain
dread
In spite of unwed danger, seeing blessing clearly found
Mary sang to highest heavens "Release the captives bound!"

Can you believe that's just the beginning, only just the start
God's love right here in flesh and bone, God's love he would
impart
And teach the world a whole new way
Light the dawn with a brand new day
So listen hard to what I say,
But a warning: It won't be easy.

2 Don't miss this truthful story don't get hung up on the facts

It's not a scientific study, it's Gods love to the very max

Belief is found in the truth we know,
Even when the world denies "No, that can't be so"

You see, often in this world we lose sight of the true and pure

We see! We want! And we want more and more!
Bring on Black Friday deals, bring on the food and drink!
Bring on those big ol' meals, two servings more I think!
I hope I get the gift, that last year Santa missed.
I hope I get that gift, and *everything* on my list.

But not just all the bobble and trinkets, not only gifts in buckets.

I want money too, yeah, the coin, the duckets.
To help me sleep at night, to peacefully close my lids
Cause God forbid oh God, I'd have to live with my kids!

On Wall St, on Nasdaq, on Dow and on Jones,
On gold and on silver, on dollar and Bitcoins.
Oh exchange-traded derivatives and subprime mortgage rates

I don't care I don't care, just do whatever it takes!

Oh rats! Oh no! Oh crud I just remembered
That angel came and came to lowly shepherds.
The low of the low, the poor, the hard-living.
Might I have missed the meaning of Christmas giving?

Jesus gave, he gave in love, his life an expression of service
This love it's big, it's bold and true, but it doesn't stop with us.

When you receive it, don't stop there, there's still so much potential.

When we get it then we give it, this love grows exponential!

If only that were all, the money, the gifts and all the stuff

It's also that little voice inside our head that tells us we're not enough.

That turns to lust for power, our power we will spread,
Oh, it'll be better for everybody, if I just move ahead.

Ahead of who, ahead of what, I'm not sure we always know
But ahead of someone, that's for sure. See you, gotta go!

I gotta go get better, surely the world won't love me like this
Taller, tanner, thinner. Richer with a nicer car
Extravagant vacations, better if they're far.
Perfect Facebook image, clever Twitter tweets
That'll make them love me, a persona that can't be beat.

But darn this gospel story, filled with reality undying
It's not what we make, what we take, or the dollars we rake.
Not the bling, how well we sing, the diamond ring, even if we're king.
Nor if we dunk like Mike, the bikes, how far we hike, or number of likes.

None of that, none of that will earn us God's unending love
It's already here next to us, within us, below us and above
it was born in you and you (and yes—) even you.
That love is right here in us, no matter what we do.

But what *will* we do with it, that becomes the question
And the really miraculous part is that it's left to our discretion
Squirrel it away, save it for a rainy day, use it for a debt to pay?
Sorry, nay, it doesn't work that way.

4

When love was born at Christmas, it was not a one-time offer

No expiration date it has, but you cannot put it in your coffer.

What you'll find is this I am quite sure, This love it goes and goes.

Give it, spend it, pass it on, and infinite it grows.

Started long ago it did, this moment that changed the world
Exponential love alive, our true design unfurled...

A moment that lives far beyond this steeple

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace
among all people"

