

**Christmas Morning 2019**  
**Is 9:2-7 Luke 2:1-14**

Thanks to Adrian

3 things to consider this morning as we celebrate Jesus birthday...

His strength... MIGHTY God

His surprise...this long awaited prophecy suddenly burst forth

His peace... PRINCE OF PEACE

Today we are celebrating the birth day of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us

Luke tells us 'To you is born this day a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord Vs 11

ARM WRESTLE

Luke sets the scene for Jesus' birth

He tells us that Jesus' birth happens at the time that Augustus was Emperor and Quirinius was governor of Syria

Luke is setting the political scene of the day

The Roman Empire was an incredibly strong and powerful empire.

It ruled over huge areas of land

Their emperors and governors were powerful people who lived in grand palaces and who demanded adoration and obedience

But the little tiny baby, whose name was Jesus, The one who saves, was born to the humble parents of Mary & Joseph, born in a lowly stable, physically weak and vulnerable

And yet was ALMIGHTY GOD

PARTY POPPER/CRACKER

Wait! Wait! Wait!

You can wait..... and wait..... and wait.... for someone to pull the string & then suddenly.... all the streamers BURST forth

Jesus was suddenly there... very few people knew of his imminent birth...

No Facebook to circulate pregnancy photos and scans

The scandal of Mary's pregnancy also meant that she tried to keep it quiet

But suddenly, unexpectedly, after a journey to Bethlehem this baby arrived

No hospital bag packed, no grandparents on standby, no beautiful new cot ready

The time came for her to deliver her child. She wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger

After 100's of years of waiting, Jesus, the one who saves, was born, unexpectedly and almost un-noticed.

He was to be the Saviour, the Lord. He truly was God and the whole of creation came together at his birth

Angels Shepherds straw animals stars

We still encounter God in UNEXPECTED PLACES and UNEXPECTED WAYS...

## CROWN

Caesar Augustus was praised in his day as a great king of peace. He fought and won many wars which led to a reasonably peaceful time

He became a self proclaimed god, he expected people to worship him

Caesar Augustus may have had a reputation as being someone who enabled peace

But Jesus brings a peace that no other earthly king will ever achieve

A peace that is not an external achievement but is deep, deep within us

Jesus, the PRINCE OF PEACE

We celebrate today the birth of the child, born for us, a son given to us

He came to earth, Light of the World, entering our lives no matter what our pain or sadness

The Shepherds, the dirty, smelly, bottom of the social ladder shepherds were the first to hear after the angels suddenly appeared to them.

This tiny baby, stronger than the greatest of human princes, long awaited but now suddenly here, is the one True King, the one who brings everlasting peace