

**Christmas Greetings!**  
from Pastor Steve

I had not experienced a "white Christmas" in Seattle for the past 15 years. At the start of this season, I prayed to God for a "white Christmas" and God answered my prayers! At 1 am this morning, we picked up our daughter at the airport and all through our 45-minute drive, we saw so much snow! Actually, I prayed for a "white Christmas Day" but this just goes to prove that God is more generous than I thought!

What a blessing this cold and wintry weather is! It allows us to sit back and remember the true meaning of Christmas.

Many of us have no choice but to sit still because we can't go anywhere. We don't need to rush to work or to get some shopping done even if we wanted to. Suddenly, we have the time to look at our world with an unhurried set of eyes, and we see God's wonderful blessings all around us. From the beauty of God's snow-covered creation to a new appreciation for the warmth of our homes, we know God has blessed us! This is the time to call our loved ones, or write letters to friends, and to see the value in what is truly important. This is the time to thank God in prayer.

This is the true meaning of Christmas - the gifts God gives us are more wonderful than the tinsel-wrapped ones we have come to expect on Christmas. By sending his only Begotten Son into this world, God gifts us with a boundless hope in his promises, a peace that passes all understanding, joy in his grace and forgiveness, and the warmth of his abiding love.

May your Christmas be truly meaningful!

Keep safe... Keep warm... Keep praying.

Pastor Steve