

December 12, 2023

Dear Friends,

Only a few weeks are left until the world welcomes the birth of the Prince of Peace. Ironically, the world has never been farther away from peace. With people dying every day of war, starvation and diseases, humanity is in deep trouble. *Is there any hope left for true peace on earth?*

Despite the global political crisis, Christmas is an opportunity to remember that there *is* hope and redemption, but it doesn't come from politicians, economists...or Amazon. The writer of Psalm 121 knew all too well the human tendency to seek help in the appearance of power and might. *"I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from?"* For the psalmist the answer to this perplexing question is clear. *"My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth."*

The Scriptures tell us that God loves us and has a plan for a hurting and broken world. God came to us in the person of a carpenter from Nazareth and gave humanity something the world could not offer. This is a great reason to rejoice! In that spirit of peace and hope, I cordially invite you, your family, and friends to the

**Christmas Eve Celebrations on Sunday, December 24th**

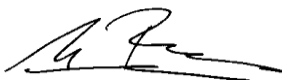
10 AM—Worship Service

6 PM—Family Evening Service

This will be the second Christmas for our family at Garden Grove UMC, certainly, very special to us. Your prayers, encouragement, and support have made us feel loved and welcome at this church. Thank you for blessing us in so many ways. I want to conclude this letter by offering praise to God and our heartfelt gratitude to you and wishing you all a blessed Christmas and happy New Year.

May the peace and grace of the Christ child come upon you and your loved ones as you celebrate His birth.

Joy to the World,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Traci Lui', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pastor Lui, Traci  
Benjamin & Timothy