

Sermon Title: **Merry or Blue Christmas? - Moses' Birth**

Bible: Luke 2:10-12, Exodus 1:22-2:4

Where & When: Sunday Worship at Gilroy UMC on December 2nd, 2018

Audience: about 32 English-speaking Church Members

Opening Prayer

Let us pray! Gracious God, you are the life. You are the source of our life. Your presence makes us live. In Jesus' name, Amen!

1. One Baby Girl's Birthday

Do you remember when you were born? Have you heard what happened on your real birth day? Once there was a baby girl. She was very tiny, because she had a twin sister. And the doctor came to the mom. It could be dangerous for the mom to deliver both of the babies. It could hurt either the twin sisters or the mom. She was told to choose one, not risk all three. The mom needed to make a tough and hard decision. She decided to deliver the babies, regardless of the possibility of losing someone, including herself. Thankfully, all three, the two twin sisters and the mom, were fine. But how does this baby girl recall her real birth day? Is it a Happy Birthday for her? Or is it a painful and sad Birthday? How do you interpret this birthday story? (And you will see this baby girl before Christmas.)

2. Moses' Birthday

How did Moses recall his real Birthday? If you are part of Moses' family, do you want to share the story, the Exodus scripture that we read? Moses' name itself must have made him curious about his birth story. His name implies that he was drawn out of the water. What caused him to be drawn out of the water? Moses needed the back story. How did Moses feel about his birth? Many baby boys were thrown into the water. Probably, Moses was the only one to be saved. He might have been the only survivor. If you were Moses, how would you feel?

3. Moses' Liberation - Let My People Go! Let Myself Go!

Many things happened to Moses. And finally, Moses went to the Pharaoh, and shouted out "Let My People Go!" But, before this, Moses encountered God in the Burning Bush. God told him, "I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people out of Egypt." In my understanding, this is "Let You Go!", to set you free from your birth story. Moses denies his identity, and cannot accept the calling, the liberation. It took 80 years for Moses to accept "Let Myself Go!" God, the name of I AM WHO I AM, called Moses to become WHO YOU ARE. Moses, you are the saved one and you are to save others!

4. Gilroy UMC's Liberation

We remember many of our Gilroy UMC's Christmases. When I came to Gilroy UMC, I heard one Christmas Story, which is still hard for me to embrace. I never

met her, but whenever I hear the story, I am emotional. On Christmas day, one church member passed away at the hand of a member of her family, who suffers from a mental illness. That Christmas story tastes just bitter. Not even bittersweet. Is it a Merry or a Blue Christmas? (Tears come to the Pastor's eyes).

It is not easy. We cannot forget the love and the care that we received. What does SHE want for us? Being stuck in depression? I pray that my tears become healing fountains.

Please forgive us or embrace us. And please accept the mysterious reality of this life. Remember WHO WE ARE. Like Moses, we are the one to be loved and to love. We are the one to be saved and to save others! And shout out! "Let My People Go!" "Let Myself Go!" "Let Ourselves Go!"

Closing Prayer

Oh, God, have mercy on us. Have mercy on us, while waiting for the baby Jesus.

God became Human to be with us. Oh, Come Emmanuel God to our church!

In Jesus' name. Amen!