

Dear NU Family,

In 1742, George Frederic Handel's *Messiah* premiered in Dublin, Ireland. This beautiful piece of music, paired with a libretto composed by Charles Jennens, has become a Christmas classic. Even those who have never heard the whole *Messiah* are familiar with the famous section called the Hallelujah Chorus. As the entire choir crescendos into an outpouring of glorious praise to God, tradition dictates that audience members are also supposed to stand. This incredible moment in the performance seems like a natural conclusion to the piece, but it is not. Instead, the audience sits again, and a quiet soprano voice offers another reflection on the goodness of God. The words that are sung repeatedly are, "I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand in the latter day upon the earth".

This is what Christmas is about. Yes, Jesus was born. Yes, the angels sang in the heavens. Yes, the shepherds and wise men worshipped him. But the reason this event was so momentous and earth-shattering and life-changing is because **our Redeemer had come**. And, after living a sinless, Spirit-filled, servant-hearted life, He made the way for our salvation through His death and resurrection.

I am so thankful that He came as our Redeemer, and that He will come again to complete the restoration He began. Join me in celebrating His presence and His promised return this Christmas season.

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Due to finals week, no chapel services are scheduled. If you'd like to listen to recordings from our services this semester, [please visit this page](#).

Prayer Needs This Week

- Students and professors as they finish finals, tests, and papers
- Safety as people travel home for the holidays
- Financial provision for next semester
- Local, national, and global leaders

Also, I would like to share with you an incredible event we will be having on campus this January. Every year, we host Pursuit Conference, a spiritual formation conference designed to encourage us all in our walk with Jesus. January 27-29, 2017, we will be having Pastor Tyler Sollie, Pastor John Mark Comer, and Pastor Micahn Carter here for an incredible weekend of sessions to challenge and grow our faith. You can view the schedule of events, times, and locations here: <https://www.northwestu.edu/pursuit-conference/>, and click on the video below to watch the promo. We hope to see you and your friends there!

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas,

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