

## God's Greatest Gift

Christmas Eve – 2012

Luke 2:1-14

Great God of love, open our hearts, bath us in your Holy light, and be present here, now. Amen

More than 2000 years ago, a single event changed the world forever.

In an obscure little village, in a stable, in the dark of night, a child was born. The parents, a young virgin, and the man to whom she was engaged.

The relationship between the creator and the created would never be the same again.

So miraculous was this event that it has been passed on from generation to generation for over two millennium and has spread from a remote village in the Far East, to every corner of the earth.

Who was this baby that he could literally change the world? He is Immanuel, God with us. No longer is God far off, distant, or unreachable.

God is here!

Now **God dwells with us!**

**God has entered into human history. God enters into human form. Jesus is fully human and fully divine.**

Why would God bother? Because God loves you so much. Seeing you lost, confused, aimless, longing to love and be love, filled with fear, in danger – God does exactly what it is our nature to do –  
**God Intervenes!**

At one time or another we have all experienced irrepressible compassion and love. Imagine that you are walking with a toddler. You are keeping a firm hold on their little hand, however, without warning something irresistible catches the little ones eye, the child drops your hand and darts away toward the street. Instinctively you dash after the child without regard for your personal safety, because nothing is of greater value to you than to keep that child safe. In that moment your love is all that matters.

**God's love for you is limitless and constant.**

God comes to save **you**. To prevent you from being hurt. God comes to save you. God comes to awaken you to the truth of your identity as a beloved child of Almighty God.

During his life Jesus reveals God's divine intent for all humanity. You need not wonder about who you are and how you are to live your life. Jesus shows you by what he does and by what he teaches.

Jesus is God's Greatest Gift! **Jesus is God's gift to YOU!**

Imagine the stable before you. Approach the manger. **Look in at the infant Jesus.** Look there is a tag attached to Jesus tiny wrist, on the small tag is **your name.**

**Your name with the words " with all my love, God.**

**Everything that Jesus is, everything that Jesus does he does for YOU!**

That truth ought to overwhelm you.

God loves and cares about you in the deepest and most profound way you can possibly imagine.

Through Jesus life, death and resurrection, God endeavors to communicate the breadth and depth of divine love.

Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, those things that have separated you from God, are erased. You are forgiven and given the gift of new life.

Every day is a new day. Every day you get to start again, renew your hearts commitment to love as you are loved.

The gift of Jesus is your gift. Take him into your life. Love him as he loves you. **He is your gift. His love is also within you.** Take him with you everywhere you go. His presence will help you remember who you are.

But wait!

You have your gift, what gift do you have for Jesus?

Jesus only wants one thing – Jesus wants you!

Jesus longs for you to allow him to be a part of your daily life. Jesus longs to guide, guard and empower you with his love.

**God's Greatest Gift is in your hands.**

Accept it and share it by the way you live each and every day of your life. Your life lived with gratitude and love, is the greatest gift you can give, the only gift Jesus longs to receive.

Amen