

Rev. Randall Hubbard
Isaiah 52:7-10
Hebrews 1:1-6
John 1:1-18

CHRISTMAS DAY
Epiphany Catholic Church
Louisville, KY, USA
December 25, 2022

Again, Merry Christmas. I have to share with you this gospel of the birth of Jesus is my most favorite. I love the Christmas Day gospel from the Gospel of John. It is by far my most favorite gospel for Christmas in light of giving us that awareness of the tremendous love of our God that brings us here today to rejoice, to rejoice in that love of God made evident. The word became flesh. The word who is the word of truth, the one who gives us life, who restores us to our dignity as children of faith. As we come here to celebrate this Christmas, to celebrate the birth of our Savior, we are ever mindful that this is the greatest gift our God gives us - the gift of God's own self, God's own Son who comes for us to show us the depth of our God's love and our God's goodness.

Now, when we look back at our faith history, we look at the Old Testament, again we hear of the fall in the Garden of Eden, and humanity turning from God's love and God's goodness. And because of sin entering the world, God then putting into place, putting into motion this plan to restore us to our dignity, to restore us to that eternal life that God intended for us from the very beginning. And that we know as we look at the scriptures God again and again and again, calling God's people back into right relationship, assuring them of God's love and God's goodness. But yet the people, again, hearing it, accepting it, then turning again from God and sinning, and we see that pattern again of hearing God's word, of accepting God's word, believing that God, yes, maybe does love us. And then trying to get caught up, then sinning and turning from God yet again.

And God's sending the prophets again, prophet after prophet, after prophet, after prophet, to give that assurance of God's love and God's goodness. And yet ultimately, God sends us God's own self, God's own Son, to tell us that God loves us. This is the good news of this celebration, that our God loves us. That our God is not one who is looking to see and catch us in our sin, or to punish us because of our sin. But God wants us to know that our sin no longer is that stumbling block that prevents us from knowing the love of our God.

You see, Jesus comes, the word taking on our flesh, sharing in our human condition, experiencing life as we experience life, being born in time as an infant being completely dependent upon Mary and Joseph to raise him, to protect him, to teach him. And then when his time comes for him to fulfill his mission, his mission in proclaiming this good news of our God's love, showing us the depth of God's love in his willingness to suffer and die so that our sins are forgiven, that the sin no longer keeps us from knowing that love of our God. And not only that, showing us the power of our God's love that not only forgives our sins, but conquers death, giving us new life. It is the wonder of this miracle, of this birth of our Savior, the word becoming flesh, sharing in our life, speaking to us face-to-face, one like us, to assure us that we are beloved by our God. That our God wants us to know that God is with us, that God loves us, that God forgives us, that God gives us new life. Eternal life.

And so we come here and we rejoice with the angels on this glorious, blessed morning as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, the greatest gift that our God gives us, God's own self, Jesus Christ, who is our Lord and Savior.