

Thursday

Please read Colossians 1:13-20. What do you learn about Jesus in this passage? How does this help you appreciate better what happened at Christmas? How would you summarize verses 19 and 20 in your own words?

Ask God to help you have a fuller appreciation of the incarnation today.

Friday

Please read Luke 2:21-40. What does Simeon prophesy about Jesus in verses 28-32? How might this have been different from what the people were expecting from the Messiah? How has Jesus been a “light of revelation” (verse 32) to you? How was Jesus the cause of “the falling and rising” (verse 34) of people? Does this still happen today?

Thank God for the specific way Jesus has been a light to you. Pray for the people in your life and around the world who still need that light.

Saturday—New Year’s Eve

As you look back over this Christmas season, what specific things did you enjoy? Was there any specific thing that brought you closer to Jesus? How can you plan for more of those experiences next year?

Ask God to prepare your heart so that you can worship him in Spirit and truth as you come together with your brothers and sisters tomorrow to share in the Lord’s Supper. Pray that our One Worship Service (11:00 AM) will clearly show God’s grace and truth to all who attend.



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Simply Christmas

The Simple & True Story of the Incarnation

Message by Rick McRostie on Sunday, December 25, 2016

God With Us

“All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel’— which means, ‘God with us.’” Matthew 1:22-23

The Bible affirms that Jesus is...

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1

“He was with God in the beginning.” John 1:2

“Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.” John 1:3

“In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.” John 1:4-5

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

Jesus came to...

1. _____ to us

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

2. _____ to us

“No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.” John 1:18

3. _____ us

“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”
John 1:12

“Long before he laid down earth’s foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!) He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son.” Ephesians 1:4-6 (MSG)

“We have all benefited from the rich blessings he brought to us—one gracious blessing after another.” John 1:16 (NLT)

Daily Meditations

Brief daily Bible studies and questions for reflection on today’s topic.

This week’s memory verse:

“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”
2 Corinthians 9:15

Monday

Please read John 1:1-11. Why do you think this gospel begins with “in the beginning” instead of telling about Jesus’ birth? What facts about Jesus can you discover in these verses? Who and what fails to understand the light? Why?

Thank God today that he sent his Son for you! Meditate on the truths about Jesus that you’ve discovered today.

Tuesday

Please read John 1:12-18. This is a description of Christmas from God’s perspective. Why did the Word become flesh and dwell among us? What is the benefit of receiving the Word? In what way can you receive or welcome Christ into your life today?

If you haven’t yet invited Jesus to be the Lord of your life, why not do that today? If you already are a follower of Jesus, remember to receive him as your “honored guest;” in other words, focus on him in a special way. Dedicate this day and every day to him.

Wednesday

Please read Luke 2:1-20. In what way is the message of Jesus’ birth good news? How has it been good news in your life? What is the significance of Jesus being identified as both Savior and Lord at his birth?

Give thanks to God for one aspect of the Christmas story found in this passage.