

(英語版のみ)

MIC Christmas Eve Worship Service – 2024.12.24 @20:00

Title: "The Light of the World Has Come"

Text: John 1:1~14, NIV

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Introduction

Christmas Eve is a time filled with wonder and anticipation. We gather tonight to reflect on the greatest gift ever given: the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. The Gospel of John takes us beyond the manger scene to a profound truth—Jesus is the eternal Word who became flesh and brought light to a dark world.

As we open our hearts to the Word of God, let us remember this: **Christmas is the celebration of God's love breaking into human history to bring us life and light.**

I. Jesus: The Eternal Word - John 1:1

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

A. John begins his Gospel by echoing the opening words of Genesis, emphasizing that Jesus is not just part of the Christmas story—He is the Creator, the One through whom all things were made.

Colossians 1:15~17 - ¹⁵*The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

Colossians 1:15 (NLT) - ¹⁵ *Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,*

- B. Jesus didn't start in the manger; He existed from eternity past. He is fully God, yet He chose to enter our world.

APPLICATION: This truth challenges us to see Christmas as more than a sentimental holiday. *It's about the eternal God stepping into time to accomplish His plan of redemption.*

II. Jesus: The Light in the Darkness - John 1:5

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

- A. Jesus came into a world shrouded in spiritual darkness. The chaos, sin, and brokenness we see today are not new.

John 3:19~20 - ¹⁹ *This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but **people loved darkness** instead of light **because their deeds were evil.*** ²⁰ *Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for **fear that their deeds will be exposed.***

- B. But the light of Christ cannot be extinguished. His light brings hope to the hopeless, guidance to the lost, and life to those walking in death.

John 8:12 - *Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "**I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.**"*

John 12:46 - *I have come into the world as a **light**, so that no one who **believes in me** should stay in darkness.*

ILLUSTRATION: Think of how a single candle can brighten an entire room. In the same way, Jesus, the Light of the World, pierces the deepest darkness.

APPLICATION: We live in a world that often feels overwhelmed by darkness—wars, disease, and personal struggles. This Christmas, remember that Jesus is **the Light** who overcomes all darkness. Let His light shine in you and through you.

III. Jesus: God with Us - John 1:14

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

- A. This is the heart of Christmas: God became man. Jesus didn't stay distant or detached. He entered our mess, experienced our pain, and walked among us.

Hebrews 4:14~15 - ¹⁴ *So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe.* ¹⁵ *This High Priest of ours **understands our weaknesses**, for he **faced all of the same testings we do**, yet he did not sin.*

That's why we are further enjoined in verse 16:

¹⁶ So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”

- B. The phrase ***“made His dwelling”*** can be translated as ***“tabernacled among us.”*** Just as God’s presence was with His people in the tabernacle, Jesus is God’s presence with us today.

ILLUSTRATION: Imagine a king leaving his palace to live among his people. This is what Jesus did—not to observe us, but to save us.

APPLICATION: Are you feeling alone this Christmas? Be reminded that ***God is with you***. Jesus came to be Emmanuel, ***“God with us.”*** His presence is our greatest gift.

IV. Jesus: The Gift of Grace and Truth - John 1:16

“Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given.”

- A. Jesus brings both grace and truth. Grace forgives our sins; truth transforms our lives.
B. The Law, given through Moses, pointed out our need for salvation. Jesus fulfilled the Law and provided the way to eternal life.

ILLUSTRATION: A gift is only valuable when it’s received. Jesus is the Ultimate Gift—freely given, but we must open our hearts to receive Him.

APPLICATION: This Christmas, reflect on the gift of Jesus. Are you living in His grace? Are you walking in His truth? Share this gift with others who need to know Him.

Conclusion

Tonight, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us remember the message of John’s Gospel:

1. Jesus is ***the eternal Word*** who reveals God.
2. Jesus is ***the light*** who overcomes darkness.
3. Jesus is ***God with us***, bringing grace and truth.

If you’ve never invited the Light of the World into your heart, there’s no better time than tonight. Let the true meaning of Christmas fill your soul with hope, peace, and joy.

Closing Prayer:

“Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ. On this holy night, we rejoice in His coming and the light He brings to our lives. Help us to walk in His light and share His love with the world. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”