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Sermon Notes

Slide Deck

Prayer

Freedom Prayer

We provide a prayer opportunity for anyone who feels the need for increased freedom and personal breakthrough in their lives. You will be walked through a process of Freedom Prayer by 2 or 3 of our trained Ministry Team Members.

Come with an expectant and receptive heart for the Lord to powerfully minister to you!

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.org/prayer>



Intercessory Prayer

Join us for Intercessory prayer, Tuesday nights at 6:30pm, or Thursday mornings at 6:30am.

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.org/prayer>



Re-Gen

Regen, 2nd and 4th Sundays

Re-gen, for 18 to 30s, meets here at Harborview on the second and fourth Sunday's beginning at 5:30pm.

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.org/re-gen-young-adults-ministry>



Small Groups

Small Groups

Small Groups exist to help each one of us grow up into the life of God within us.

They are a primary mechanism for shepherding through relationship + discipleship.

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/368/responses>



The Edge

Wednesday Night Youth Group

The Edge Youth Group for Middle School and High School meets at Harborview Fellowship at 6:15pm every Wednesday Night.



Parking & Welcome Volunteers needed

Looking for volunteers for the High5 Welcome team.

Positions include:

- Greeters
- Parking lot attendants
- Hospitality
- Ushers
- Security

Fill out the form and let us know you are interested.

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/478/responses>



Whole Church

Azure Standard

Monthly deliveries to Harborview Fellowship. 2% of every order delivered here is donated to Harborview Fellowship.



First order is 15% off with promo code Harborview15.

Step 1: Create a free account at www.AzureStandard.com

Step 2: Chose drop location: **Harborview Fellowship**

Step 3: Shop and add items to your cart.

Step 4: Add promo code **Harborview15** to your first checkout.

Questions? Contact:

Lisa Roddy: (253) 318-7625

Melissa Wallace: (206) 369-5672

Learn more, or register here:

<https://www.azurestandard.com/>

Christmas Eve Services

We want to be able to accommodate every family this Christmas Eve. Please help us ensure we have enough room for your family by registering for your preferred service and letting us know how many family members will be attending with you.

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/505/responses>



Giving

Thank you for being a part of Harborview Fellowship Church. Your donations are used to support, grow, and advance God's kingdom through a number of ministries at Harborview Fellowship including Children and Youth ministries, Outreach, Missions, Operations, and Jesus Ministry training both locally and globally.

You can mail a check, or give online to the link below.

Harborview Fellowship
4819 Hunt Street NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.org/give>



Women

Prepare Him Room Vitruual Event

Prepare Him Room with Kelly Minter. We'll gather at 9am for fellowship with coffee, tea and some sweet breakfast treats with the simulcast from 9:30-11am. Wear your favorite Christmas sweater or holiday attire. \$10* to register. *tax included



Introduction Video

[Prepare Him Room 2025 with Kelly Minter | Lifeway](#)

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/501/responses>

CHRISTMAS IN CONTEXT

*INTRODUCTION

- The purpose of celebrating Christmas can vary depending on who you ask.
- Basically, what we celebrate at Christmas is that God sent His Son into the world. Jesus, who is God, takes on human form, “Immanuel” – God with us.
 - It’s a magnificent story.
 - From a literary standpoint alone, the story can be moving.
 - But this account is more than just great literature.
- **Christmas can be romanticized for some.**
 - A young couple having a baby in a faraway land,
 - shepherds,
 - angels,
 - and wise men traveling with a mysterious guidance from a long-distance.
- For many, Christmas rings of:
 - Little Drummer Boy,
 - Silent Night that is calm and bright,
 - Dreaming of a White Christmas no matter where you live,
 - fireplaces with stockings hanging,
 - cards,
 - and gatherings around food and merriment.

*CHRISTMAS – A CONTEXT OF WAR

- Actually, Christmas is **an account with a backdrop of battle and war**.
- Imagine the Christmas setting in the middle of a scene we are familiar with from WWII.
 - Bombed out towns,
 - tanks rolling through the streets,
 - soldiers on foot,
 - weapons positioned throughout.
 - That is more the scene of the nativity, in the spiritual realm.

*CHRISTMAS – PART OF A BIGGER PICTURE

- It is also important to remember that the **Christmas story doesn’t begin in Bethlehem**, but instead long before in another time and place.
 - The *time* is eternity past.
 - The *place* is heaven.

*** Acts 2:23** (ESV) *this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.*

1 Peter 1:20 (ESV) *He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you.*

*** CHRISTMAS – PART OF AN EPIC WAR**

- **Before the foundation of the world, the war had already begun.**
- Lucifer, the devil, or Satan, rebelled against God, leading many of the angels in the rebellion and resulting in their eviction from heaven.
 - By that time, a fierce and epic war had started.
- Then, after God created humanity, Satan's war expanded to the very heart of God's creation—human beings created in His image to rule over His creation on earth.
 - Adam and Eve were also deceived into rebelling against God, and as a result, they became immersed in sin with its curse.
 - Every human being has sinned since then, trapped in Satan's grip.
 - God, in His holiness and justice, knew that sin would need to be paid for, the curse broken, and a way made for human exoneration.

*** CHRISTMAS – PART OF THE SOLUTION**

- The decision was made that God would become a man and die for all humanity.

*** John 1:14** (ESV) *And the Word [God the Son, Jesus] became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

- God put things in order, and in His perfect timing for the world to receive Jesus and for the birth of the Church, God sent Jesus to earth to die.

*** Galatians 4:4–5** (ESV) *But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.*

- The Scriptures prophesied that Jesus, God the Son, would be born in the town called Bethlehem.

*** Micah 5:2** (NASB 2020) *“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah. From you One will come forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His times of coming forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.”*

*** CHRISTMAS – THE MISSION**

- Jesus coming to earth the first time was to destroy Satan's works, defeat Satan, and provide humanity with forgiveness of sin.

- Because of this, Satan has fought fiercely to oppose and destroy anyone and anything connected to God's plan of redemption.
- Israel has been in a constant war, fighting for its existence, and it still is.
- The Church, the people of God's ekklesia, has faced opposition and persecution from the beginning.
- **When Jesus was born, the demonic powers shook with fear.**
 - They knew that the king had arrived.
 - that their doom was imminent if his mission succeeded,
 - they did everything they could to prevent this from happening,
 - and they prompted King Herod to kill baby boys.

*** Matthew 2:16** (ESV) *Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.*

- Jesus' birth is the story of light breaking into darkness, of hope bursting into gloom, God's kingdom invading Satan's realm of death and destruction.
- It's the story of the demonic rulers being overrun.

*** CHRISTMAS – THE COMING OF GOD'S WARRIOR**

Egypt

- After Jesus' birth, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream, telling him not to return home right away but to go to Egypt first, because Herod wanted to kill Jesus.
 - After Herod died, Joseph took his family to his hometown of Nazareth.

Wilderness Battle

- We receive notice of only a few of the untold battles.
 - As the Messiah begins His earthly ministry, there will be a 40-day intense, head-to-head battle between Satan and Him.
 - Throughout the Messiah's ministry, Satan would attempt to disrupt, disturb, and destroy Jesus and His mission.

Mt. of Olives Garden

- Finally, there was a very **intense battle in another garden**, so intense that Jesus sweat drops of blood.
- He was then **arrested and subjected to bogus, illegal trials.**
 - The smooth skin of the infant; as an adult, was **ripped apart by a whip.**
 - The soft flesh of the baby; as an adult, would be **punctured by nails and a spear.**
 - The small child's head; would eventually, as an adult, **bear a crown of thorns.**
- He eventually would **hang on a Roman cross**, enduring a most cruel and inhumane death by crucifixion.

- With the Messiah now dead, Satan and his dark kingdom had reason to rejoice—mission accomplished!

*CHRISTMAS – THE COMING OF GOD’S OVERCOMER

- But like a **chess master**, God cornered Satan with a check, then it was checkmate.
 - Jesus resurrected from His grave, conquering sin and death!

**Matthew 28:5–7 (ESV) But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.”*

- Jesus came to defeat Satan and his works.

**Hebrews 2:14 (ESV) Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,*

**1 John 3:8 (ESV) Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.*

*CHRISTMAS – THE COMING OF GOD’S SERVANT

- Christmas is the story of the King of Kings becoming a humble, needy, nursing, crying baby.
 - It's the story of concealed glory.

**Philippians 2:6–7 (ESV) who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.*

- The Christmas story is of a **great warrior** coming to rescue helpless people.
 - It's a **story of grit, and blood, and a rugged cross awaiting the newborn babe.**
- The Christmas story is about a **great servant** who sacrifices everything for the good of others.

*CHRISTMAS – PART OF A LARGER REALITY

- As we listen to Christmas carols and enjoy their melodies, take in all the decorations, savor the gatherings and meals, let's remember the glorious battle our Savior fought and won.
 - The **manger** was positioned on a battlefield.

- Let's remember **the grit and the glory of what our Savior accomplished.**
- Let's remember that **the stable hung under the shadow of the cross.**
- The coming and birth of Jesus was a crucial battle in the spiritual war that has been fought since ancient times.
 - The **war still rages fiercely**, with **people's eternal souls at risk.**

*CHRISTMAS – PART OF CULMINATING THE WAR

*The Context of Christmas - Slide

- This very same Messiah will come to earth, a second time, and much differently; this time as the conquering Judge!
- This same Jesus who came as an infant, will bring a culmination to this war.

***Revelation 19:11–16** (ESV) *Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. 13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. . . . 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.*

*CHRISTMAS – PART OF ETERNAL REALITY

***Revelation 21:1–5** (NKJV) *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. * 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."*

*SUMMARY

- The Infant who came as God in the flesh came as:
 - A Warrior, Servant, Redeemer, and King who will come again to earth, to establish His kingdom of justice, righteousness, and peace.
- Through Him is forgiveness for all our sin, peace for distress, hope, joy for sadness.
- It helps to remember the context of Christmas.



1



THE CONTEXT OF CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS – A CONTEXT OF WAR

CHRISTMAS – PART OF A BIGGER PICTURE

2



THE CONTEXT OF CHRISTMAS

Acts 2:23 (ESV) this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

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 CHRISTMAS – PART OF A BIGGER PICTURE
 CHRISTMAS – PART OF AN EPIC WAR
 CHRISTMAS – PART OF THE SOLUTION

4



THE CONTEXT OF CHRISTMAS

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THE CONTEXT OF CHRISTMAS

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THE CONTEXT OF CHRISTMAS

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 CHRISTMAS – PART OF A BIGGER PICTURE
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 CHRISTMAS – THE MISSION

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THE CONTEXT OF CHRISTMAS

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 CHRISTMAS – THE COMING OF GOD'S WARRIOR
 CHRISTMAS – THE COMING OF GOD'S OVERCOMER

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THE CONTEXT OF CHRISTMAS

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THE CONTEXT OF CHRISTMAS

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THE CONTEXT OF CHRISTMAS

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CHRISTMAS – THE COMING OF GOD'S SERVANT

14



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THE CONTEXT OF CHRISTMAS

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 CHRISTMAS – THE COMING OF GOD'S SERVANT
 CHRISTMAS – PART OF A LARGER REALITY



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THE CONTEXT OF CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS – THE COMING OF GOD’S OVERCOMER
 CHRISTMAS – THE COMING OF GOD’S SERVANT
 CHRISTMAS – PART OF A LARGER REALITY
 CHRISTMAS – PART OF CULMINATING THE WAR



17



18



THE CONTEXT OF CHRISTMAS

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THE CONTEXT OF CHRISTMAS

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THE CONTEXT OF CHRISTMAS

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21



THE CONTEXT OF CHRISTMAS

Revelation 21:1–5 (NKJV) . . . 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.”

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THE CONTEXT OF CHRISTMAS

SUMMARY

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Through Him is forgiveness for all our sin, peace for distress, hope, and joy for eternity.