



## The Arrival of Love:

Dec 21, 2025

### Understanding God's Gift at Christmas

This Advent reflection invites us into the profound truth that Christmas is fundamentally a love story—not the romantic kind we see in holiday movies, but something far more transformative. Drawing from 1 John 4:7-13, we discover that God himself is the source of all love, and the arrival of Jesus as a helpless baby in Bethlehem was the ultimate demonstration of that love. What makes this message so powerful is its emphasis on concrete action: God didn't just feel love for humanity, He sent His only Son into our broken world. This wasn't obligation—it was pure, sacrificial love. The sermon challenges us to move beyond simply understanding that God is loving to truly grasping that His love for us is stronger than any other emotion He feels toward us. When we internalize this truth, it fundamentally changes how we relate to others. We're called to love not just when it's convenient or reciprocated, but deeply, completely, and repeatedly—just as God loved us first. The practical application is beautiful: our love for one another becomes the visible, tangible evidence of Christ living within us. In a world desperately searching for something real and concrete, we become the hands and feet of God's love, especially during difficult seasons when people need it most.

01.

How does understanding that 'God is love' at His core change the way you view His commandments and expectations for your life?

03.

The sermon describes Jesus' arrival as the ultimate act of love—how does viewing Christmas through this lens shift your perspective on the holiday celebrations?

05.

How can we practically demonstrate Christ's love to those who are hurting or lonely during the winter season beyond Christmas Day?

07.

Pastor Heather mentioned that if your understanding of the Bible doesn't guide you to love others, you've misunderstood something—what are some ways religious knowledge can become disconnected from love?

09.

What would change in your relationships if you loved others with the same persistence that a mother loves her child through all circumstances?

02.

In what ways have you experienced God's love as something concrete and tangible rather than abstract or distant?

04.

When have you found it most difficult to love someone the way God loves us—unconditionally and repeatedly—and what made it challenging?

06.

What does it mean that 'your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples,' and how visible is this love in your daily interactions?

08.

How does the image of Jesus as a vulnerable baby in a manger help you understand God's willingness to meet us in our own vulnerability and pain?

10.

In what specific ways can you extend God's love to someone concrete this week—a cashier, coworker, or stranger—who might desperately need to experience something real?

#### Remember...

“When Jesus came as a tiny baby in Bethlehem, love entered the world in a way that we had never seen it before. It was birthed in him.”