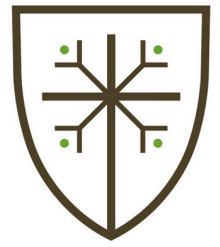


## CHRISTMASTIDE

# SERMON NOTES



January 4, 2026

### SERMON INFO

#### TITLE

"Let In On A Little Secret"

#### PREACHER

Rev. Will Stockdale

#### TEXTS

Jeremiah 31:7-10

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:10-18

### DISCUSSION QUESTION

1. What do our New Year's "resolutions" often center on?
2. Seasons of new beginnings and change are not a bad thing. What are some changes or practices that could help form us into people who radiantly shine with Christ's glory?

### SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Will wrapped up the Christmas Season with a look at the first chapter of John and the question, "What is it that you want more than anything else in all the world?" What we want says a lot about us. Particularly at this time of year, making resolutions for the year ahead, we set goals based on what we want as the end reward. The prologue of the Gospel of John shows us the only thing that can truly satisfy us and give us abundant life and joy.

#### Rebirth

Throughout his ministry, Jesus is consistently misunderstood, ignored, rejected, and treated as an imposter. All belongs to him. As John tells us, "through him all things were made." And yet, he is rejected by his own. He entered his world because it needed to be remade, reborn from the inside out. This rebirth is not something that we do. That is not God's way. Becoming a new creation is not dependent on us but comes solely from God through Christ. We come to Christ with empty hands and he fills them.

#### A Place to Grow and Belong

How is this rebirth accomplished for us? Through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. John says that the Word became flesh and "dwelt" among us. The word "dwell" means to tabernacle. God pitched his tent amidst the creation that he made. The eternal, infinite God took on flesh and that is how we are reborn. In the Old Testament, God dwelt with the Israelites wherever they went. Now, in John 1, God is dwelling with his people in a new way, not in a tent or a tabernacle but in a person. Through his teaching and miracles, Jesus shows what the kingdom of God looks like and that it had, at last, come to them.

Just as he was always with the Old Testament people of Israel, God is always with us. He does not leave us alone to fend for ourselves but rather dwells with us still through the Spirit, giving us the growth we need to become followers of him. Union with Christ is not the end result, the reward, but rather, the basis for which all the other realities of our life take place.

#### Growing Unto Glory

Considering all these beautiful truths of Christ's work and God dwelling with man, we can understand how John says, "we have seen his glory." Yet this phrase would've scandalized any Jewish reader. God's glory was not something man could see. Those who saw God's glory were struck dead. This glory of God is as awesome as it is beautiful. And this same glory of God that caused men to tremble was not just present in Christ, it was Christ. John remembers what it was like to be in the presence of God in the person of Jesus, to see his glory, and he longs for that again.

Christ has come into the world and united himself to creation and he gives life meaning and redeems all things. Christ, the very glory of God is the only thing that will satisfy us. And by God's grace, we are united to that same glory that was too great for Moses to look at. By knowing him, you are transformed by his presence, year after year, day after day.