

Christmas Eve Service 2017

“The Heart and Hope of Christmas”

The man on the park bench presents us with a tension we need to look at. What has become of Christmas? Its made up of great things: family, giving, celebration, and time to reflect on its true meaning. It's about this time of year when you hear pastors complain that there isn't much Christ in Christmas anymore. There are other characters that get the spotlight and there seems to be this cultural tug that wants to celebrate Christmas without getting... religious. The duties and schedule of the holidays can leave us exhausted and wishing it were over. But Christmas never seems to change us much. We get older every year and our families are expanding with each holiday, but inside we stay the same. Christmas is meant to change us; at least the true meaning of Christmas is meant to change us. So rather than complaining this year that our Christmas celebration is getting further away from its Origin, I'd like to remind us all about something more important. You see, **Jesus is what Christmas is about and Christmas is all about Jesus.** If Christmas isn't about Jesus, it's about something less...something much less. The good news is, its that Christmas is patented...it's about Jesus and He is the heart of Christmas. And He is not only the heart of Christmas, He is the hope of Christmas!

Christmas was when hope was personally introduced to the world. Jesus is the hope of this world and each of us have the opportunity to having him. Christmas is as simple as that. Jesus is the heart of this season and the hope of this world. He is the hope of our life.

Colossians 1:15-20 NIV

15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn

over all creation.

16 For 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.

17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

*18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the **supremacy**.*

19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,

20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Christmas is the season where we celebrate His coming.

Christmas is the season where we discover His plan.

Christmas is the season where we acknowledge His place in our life.

Bottom Line - In our donut of a life, Jesus becomes the hope that holds it all together.