

Sermon Christmas 2014

God created the world, he created man and walked and talked with him in the garden. When man lost this special position God withdrew from face to face contact, God still loved his people, even when they were disobedient, he provided for them, he rescued them, he tried to work with them for their own good. His Spirit came upon individual people at specific times giving them special powers to use for God.

We heard in John's gospel that the Word was present at the beginning and was God. This appears to be an attempt to explain Christ's divinity because we then hear that the Word became flesh and lived amongst us, that once again God was with his people.

But not in a privileged position, but as a vulnerable baby to a working class family, he was fully human so suffered all the grazed knees and tumbles of an ordinary boy, all the pains and frustrations of growing up.

Jesus is the one for whom Abraham and Sarah, the prophets, John the Baptist, Mary and we have waited for for so long. Jesus Christ is the perfect fulfilment of everything for which creation waited, as well as for things for which we have not waited.

Jesus brings both completion and surprise in our waiting, the one who was, is and will be. We wait for him, but he has been with us always through the ups and downs of our lives. He is here now, but we also await his coming again in glory and wait to remember his birth.

It is very difficult to put into words this act of our amazing God, he loved us so much that he came to live among us, to redeem us, to save us. This baby, so special that angels announced his arrival, a bright star guided foreigners to him, and yet just a baby as special as any longed for child is.

Each year at this time we wait for him again, each year we prepare to welcome him into our hearts and our lives and yet, we don't have to wait, we can invite him into our hearts anytime, anywhere, we can accept the gift of the Holy Spirit to be born again as his brother or sister. This is the legacy of that great, yet ordinary act of birth, Jesus lived among us and then, after his death, resurrection and ascension left his Spirit to empower and strengthen us all the days of our lives.

So, as we wait for the arrival of the baby in the crib, as we wait for the busyness and excitement of Christmas Day, we take time now to acknowledge him as Lord of all, but especially as Lord of our lives now and for ever.