



ADVENT LETTER

2017

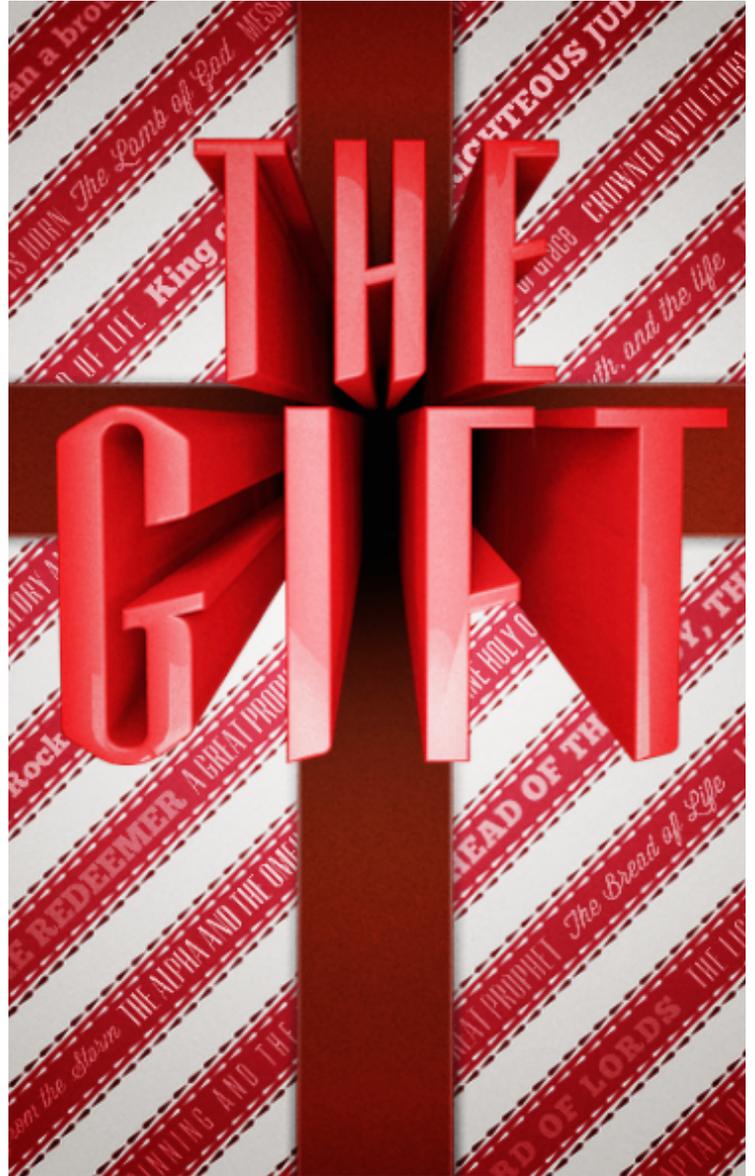
The Gift of Christmas

In early November my family will join in celebrating my nephew's wedding. I always find it hard to think about what wedding gift to buy. It helped that this couple had a gift registry. So, we were able to choose something special from the registry, confident it was something that they wanted to own.

It can also be challenging buying family and friends appropriate gifts for Christmas. This is especially the case when people already have everything that they might need. I know we have enough things in our house already. And I become very mindful of this at Christmas when I know we have so much and there are many families around the world who have so little. Sometimes those with little can be so happy, which causes me to wonder about my priorities in life. I also find myself in those moments reflecting on what might my priorities look like as a Christian person.

This year the ministry team chose the theme of "Gift of Christmas". Christmas is a very busy time for many people. We can find ourselves simply rushing from one activity to the next, as well as thinking about all the other things we have to do. Sometimes it is good to just stop and take a breath. To take time to pause and reflect. Let me encourage you this year to take time to pause and reflect during the important seasons of Advent and Christmas.

You may choose to reflect on the gift of Christmas. Another word we use instead of "gift" is "present".



Christmas Eve Services

10am & 5pm & 11pm

Christmas Day Services

8.30am & 10am



The big gift of Christmas is God's presence amongst us in the person of Jesus Christ. Christmas is the celebration of Emmanuel – God with us. God loved us so much that God came among us in a profound way in the baby of Bethlehem.

Throughout Jesus life and ministry he proclaimed that the Kingdom of God has come near. In Jesus life, teaching and ministry we see what the Kingdom of God looks like. We also catch a glimpse of what God is like as well. Jesus embodied the values of the Kingdom of God. Jesus encourages us to embody these values in our daily living. These values do not just reflect a Christmas lifestyle, but a whole of the year lifestyle. These values include transforming love, complete acceptance, radical inclusion, humility, peace, and respect.

What does the Gift of Christmas mean for you and say to you?

The ministry team thanks you for your support throughout the year and wishes you a blessed and meaningful Christmas. We look forward to sharing with you in 2018.

Prayers for you this Christmas from,

Neil, Alanee, Di and Dietrich



Advent Dates

NOV 27, 28 & 29.

10am - 12noon Kids Nativity Photos

NOV 28.

8pm - Remembrance Service

DEC 3.

10am - Worship

12pm - Christmas Lunch \$12

DEC 7.

10am - 12pm The Hub Christmas Morning Tea

DEC 10.

2.30pm - Seniors Service

DEC 17.

11am Uniting Voices, Lessons and Carol Service

DEC 20 & 21. 4-6pm Hub Kids Christmas Event

DEC 24.

10am - Worship

5pm - Families Service

11pm - Creatively engage in the Christmas story

DEC 25.

8.30am

10am

DEC 31.

10am Worship

JAN 7, 14, 21 & 28.

10am Worship