

“Do You See What I See? Love”

Luke 2:1-20

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Christmas Eve, 9:30 a.m.

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Christmas Eve! We have seen your pictures of Joy this week at #phumcjoy Thank you for sharing. Certainly we have Good News of a Great Joy...it is Christ the Lord.

Before we talk about “Do You See What I See? Love” let me remind you that the 7/11 message will be “Seeing, Hearing, and Experiencing Christmas” so a different message than this morning. Of course the 4 p.m. Family Service...Lego themed, “Connecting Piece by Piece” is different as well. 3 services tonight all with different music.

I have some unresolved questions that have been bothering me and since Christmas is the time for sharing I want them to bother you as well. ☺ Maybe you can help me with these questions I have. They are perplexing. Scripture says Mary pondering the things told to her in heart. So let’s ponder on these real world dilemmas.

### **Unresolved Questions**

#### **1. At a movie theater---which arm rest is yours?**

( I struggled with that a little when I saw Star Wars on Thursday night...hated to get into an elbow fight with someone I didn’t even know.)

#### **2. In the word “scent”---is the “s” silent or the “c?”**

(perhaps we will never know)

#### **3. If people evolved from monkeys---why are monkeys still around?**

(just askin’. Course monkey see monkey do still is at work today.)

#### **4. Why is there a “d” in”fridge”, but not in “refrigerator?”**

(now just cool it---this one is not keeping me up at night)

#### **5. Who knew what time it was when the first clock was made?**

(obviously a timeless question, no doubt)

Maybe this last unresolved question might be better for us to ponder today.

#### **6. How could the God of the universe personally show us that He loved us?**

(Now that could seem to be unresolved....but I’m happy to ponder, pray, and preach on that proposal.)

I received a Christmas Card this year that said this:

He came as a tiny baby so He could share our world.  
He was born not in a palace  
But in a humble stable.

He came to forgive  
Rather than condemn  
To motivate  
Rather than dominate  
To free us  
Rather than oppress

To teach us the true meaning of unselfish love.

Oh, do you see what I see? Love

**(image) The Wonder of Christmas is not in the Presents, but in His Presence.**

Joy and Wonder. The presents, but more importantly the PRESENCE. Do you see what I see?  
Love.

**1 John 4:9 New Living Translation (NLT) <sup>9</sup> God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him.**

That is how the God of the universe personally showed us that He loved us...by sending His one and only Son.

Now here is an interesting image that I had not seen before. **(image) 'Tis the Season, 'Tis the Reason**

Yes, this baby Jesus...born for us we celebrate at this season. A wreath is circular in share representing no beginning or end. Eternal. The evergreen symbolizes growth and evergreen...ever---lasting life.

That everlasting life that we can have took place as a circular crown of thorns was placed on Jesus at his crucifixion. From cradle to cross. The gift of love. The gift of eternal life---all through Jesus.

Jesus came for us. He came to be with us...Emmanuel.

**Matthew 1:18- Living Translation (NLT) <sup>18</sup> This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**<sup>19</sup> Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.**

**<sup>20</sup> As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus for he will save his people from their sins.”**

Yes, He came...He WILL save people from their sins. As Rev. Cathy shared the Christmas Story from Luke... “For unto you is born this day...a Savior who is Christ the Lord.” That is love!

L. R. Knost an international author says something very interesting: “Do not be dismayed by the brokenness by the world, all things break. And all things can be mended. Not with time, as they say, but with intention. So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits in darkness for the light is that is you.”

God sent His son and loved intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. We do live in a broken world that waits for light. As we will take a light from the Christ Candle in just a moment we will visible see how the light invades the darkness. Christ in you is that light!

Do you see what I see? Love. That love and light is in you because of Jesus. Have you seen, do you know the greatest love.

A song that was written back in 1962 was made famous in 1963 by Bing Crosby and basically has been sung every year by probably most every popular artist since then. It is connected to the sermon series “Do You See What I See?”

**XXXXX MARK DEEN, SOLO OF “DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR? WITH “O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL.” XXXXX**

Do you see what I see...a star, a star dancing in the night? Do you see what I see...hope in this world because of Jesus. Peace on earth because of Jesus. Joy on earth because of Jesus. Love on earth because of Jesus.

Do you hear what I hear----a song, a song with a voice as big as the sea. The song that says, “Behold I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord.”

Do you know what I know: a child, a child shivers in the cold, let us bring Him silver and gold.

Do you know what I know. Oh ‘tis the season, ‘tis the reason. Do you know this Jesus? **(image)**

Yes this baby Jesus born to save you, born to that you might have great joy, born to give you love...For God so loved the world He gave His son. He loves you intentionally, extravagantly and unconditionally.

And the song said, "Let us bring Him silver and gold." You may not have silver and gold, but you can give what you have---your heart, your self.

The greatest gift God gave was His son. The greatest gift you can give is----you. And His presence will be with you.

Do you know what I know?

**John 1:9-10, 12-14 New Living Translation (NLT)**

**<sup>9</sup>The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.**

**<sup>10</sup>He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him.. <sup>12</sup>...to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.**

**<sup>14</sup>So the Word became human (flesh) and made his home among us (dwelt among us) He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.**

Do you see what I see? Unfailing love...for us.

The one who is true light gives light to everyone.

(Candlelighting)