

John 1:1 **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

John 1:14 **And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.**

I think not... / that anyone here this evening (including myself) can fully grasp the meaning of these words.

I believe no more important words have ever be written ...

these words **are the foundation** of all things ... of everything...

these words tell us that God has entered into His Creation –

the invisible has become visible.

Those with eyes, why can we not see?

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As we sung earlier - ***Come, all ye faithful*** – the hymn closed with the true meaning of the Incarnation –

**WORD OF THE FATHER - - - NOW IN FLESH APPEARING!**

The words are few and simple but the mystery so great.

(For how can this be – God in flesh -- Jesus both Man and God --- this is beyond our power of understanding and reasoning.)

But let me tell you one Truth – that is above all Truths - These words if fully grasped – will change your life.

They will move you to become totally and completely dependent upon Him, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

So this evening we come to this event completely unequipped to handle the fullness of its consequences.

Before our focus turns to our gifts this Christmas Season, let us turn our hearts, souls, and minds toward what is **Truly** most important.

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As sheep, let us come to this sight of a baby in a manger –  
this great event – this great gift – this wonderful revelation of God

**to all of His Creation:**

so come with me and let us travel and see and investigate.

To find His manger we must travel to a city called Bethlehem of which we just sung – so we search for this little town of Bethlehem... (the same Bethlehem spoken of in Micah 5:2

“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah,

though thou be little among the thousands of Judah,

yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel;”)

Is there a message in a name? Let us investigate and **TRULY SEE**.

The name Bethlehem comes from two Hebrew words – Beth (as in beth-el) meaning “house” –

and (lehem) meaning “bread” –

so as TRULY SEEN – the word Bethlehem’s means

**“house of bread.”**

This evening as we come to Bethlehem to visit, see, and investigate this baby – it is proper for us also partake of its Bread – **His Bread.**

Jesus himself will tell the world (Jn:6:51)... **“I am the living bread which came down from heaven;**

if any man eat of this bread he shall live forever; and the bread I will give **is my flesh...**

(Jn 6:58) As well, he tells us (Jn 6:56) He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, **dwelleth in me, and I in him.**

Jesus is telling us: This bread we must eat, this flesh, is of utmost importance **if He is to be in us and we in Him.**

Come to this **“house of Bread”**, and partake of Him, TRULY RECEIVE HIM by being obedient unto these words that He did spake.

Tonight, we can truly say that St. Michael’s is Bethlehem –

as we partake of the Holy Eucharist within this “House of Bread.”

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

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As we arrive at the manger we find “Blessed’ Mary”, the baby Jesus, and Joseph. The Holy Family awaits our arrival...

Gabriel, the angel has told Mary concerning this baby:

first, that you **“shalt call his name Jesus”**;

and secondly, “that holy thing”, that child, he shall be **“called the Son of God”** (Jn 35).

Thus it is here, in the manger, that we find Mary.

According to the Scripture there is no question of Jesus being of God and Mary, so it is very proper to call this very young girl the “Mother of God.”

The Gospel for tonight tells us that “The word” (which has been from the beginning and has always been with God and **is God**),

this “Jesus” has been made flesh –

yet The Word (**this great and powerful God**) could not even speak a single word as he lay in the manger.

And as we peer at this sight, we all can **learn a lesson**:

Here is God, Jesus – who is totally dependent upon the work of the Holy Ghost as He works through “its own Creation” –

Joseph (*of the line of David*) and Mary (*an innocent Virgin*) are now **instruments** of the Almighty God.

God calls upon each one of you to be His instruments... doing His will ... walking in His ways.

I will use an expression of today – God expects us to **MAN UP** and become again what He Created!

Let us move forward...and investigate further these words.

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The scriptures also tells us that He was made flesh

**(THAT HE WAS, AND IS, OF US).**

That he dwelt among us

**(THAT HE WAS, AND IS, WITH US).**

and He would reveal His Glory as the “only begotten of the Father,”  
because he is “Full of Grace and Truth.

He is Grace (love) and Truth - - - - FOR you and me.

Psalm 145:18 tells us: The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon  
him, all that call upon him in truth...

**HE IS THE TRUTH!**

This Day - God entered into the Creation of His own hands – this day  
will never be again, the Incarnation is the one event that will never  
be repeated.

Through the Incarnation – of God becoming Man - No one will ever  
show unto you such love, such kindness, such mercy.

This night we celebrate an event equal to Creation itself.

Nothing else can compare – as the perfect takes of the form of the  
imperfect...

**the light of life entering into a world of darkness...**

**holiness lowering itself into a world of un-holiness...**

**the just coming for the unjust...**

Cannot you see, cannot you ear, cannot you feel “it” ...

**God has taken a seat with us.**

**To protect us, To save us, To rescue us from what we have  
become.**

Jesus is here tonight ... so pause, take a deep breath, relax,

**feel his presence**

**hear his words**

**see his glory**

**Come unto Him who has come unto you...**

**Feed upon Him within His House of Bread.**

**God is with us.**

**That is the great celebration this night.**

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Jesus **has invaded** this world of sin and death, and he has fully entered into the enemy's camp.

Satan, the devil, who hated Him then, and despises still - even to this day, the Messiah.

It is Satan who tried to kill him upon his birth,

and pursued him his entire life,

and still persecutes his people and His Church today.

But we know that Scripture tells us that Satan has but "a short time"; whereas, Gods Kingdom is eternal.

My brethren, the victory is yours,

if you will accept His Grace and live your life in Truth:

The Truth, which has been revealed only in Jesus Christ.

This truth has been acknowledged by His One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church for over two thousand years.

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Grace and truth are not found in the words of man, but in The Word itself – the Word that was **with God** – the Word that **is God**.

The words of man deceives and leads the sheep astray,  
the Word of God restores and Saves the sheep.

This is the constant battle that still rages today.

This battle will not end until the mission of the Church is fulfilled,  
until the second coming of Christ.

So on this day which we celebrate by the giving of gifts, we are given  
the greatest gift of all – LIFE.

### **LIFE in Christ.**

Are we going to receive this beautiful gift by grasping with our  
greedy little hands,

seeing what we can get out of it (what is in it for me)–

seeing what fun and pleasure it gives unto us.

Is this day going to be “just another day” of an emotional highs with  
feelings of utopia (which really means of “no place”) –

Are we going to have “Feelings” which elevates our “emotions”  
which are always fleeing?

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Let this year be different – let this year be the year of Jesus.

Receive this gift, **which is Jesus Christ**, with a humble spirit,

Understanding the Truth of receiving such a grand gift –

**a gift of the only true joy,**

**a gift which gives, and not just for today but for eternity,**

**a gift which is free,**

**the only gift, ever given, that sets you truly Free...**

**A TRUE AND PERFECT FREEDOM...await you!**

**This is not a gift for our pleasure, but it is for our redemption.**

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**Tonight, let your gift to Jesus be**

**Yourself!**

**That is what He wants – that is what HE desires...**

If we truthfully acknowledge his gift to us **(HIMSELF)**

THEN this is the gift that that will truly change your life.

A life towards sanctification as you strive unto “holiness” and steer away from “uncleaness.”

Sanctification of our lives is the Will of God (I Thes 4:3)

and it is His love that we should practice

to be quiet (:11) and calm,

and to comfort one another with God’s Word of Truth.

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Let me repeat the words you you sung just 15 minutes ago...

OH HOLY CHILD OF BETHLEHEM!

DESCEND TO US, WE PRAY;

CAST OUT OUR SIN AND ENTER IN,

BE BORN IN US TO-DAY...

O COME TO US, ABIDE WITH US,

OUR LORD EMMANUEL!

The gift sought by God today --- IS YOU.

Your heart, your soul, and your mind.

Return unto Him - - - give your lives to Him,

Seek Him above else...

Yes Lord Jesus, Come to us, Abide with us

**...and we with Thee.**

The hour cometh and now is when true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship him.