

*Christmas Morning 2021 Br Adams aa*

*John 1:1-18*

One of the biggest television events in history was the landing of Neil Armstrong and his fellow astronauts on the Moon. It was in July, 1969. I was not born yet, but from the movies; I have got the sense that the eyes of the whole world were upon them. The event made great news at the time. Now, it seems rather hazy. We have almost forgotten that it ever happened. And the men whose names were on the lips of everybody are now seldom mentioned.

Today, we, Christians celebrate the mystery of incarnation. The coming into our world of Jesus, the Son of God. He was born of a humble maid, at the time when communication was slow, and in a small country not peaceful, but the scene of constant strife. Only a handful of people knew about his coming. Yet, we still talk about it and celebrate it. The Incarnation is the greatest moment in the history of the world. It has been recognised by artists, poets, and writers down the ages. In the Incarnation, we recognise God's love for us.

Giving gifts is an important part of our celebration of Christmas. Christmas could be said to be the season of gifts. Gifts are a way of telling others that we love them. they have little to do with Justice, and everything to do with love. While we give presents to one another, let us make sure that we also give of ourselves to one another. Christmas is not just about giving presents. It is more about being present; to relatives, to neighbours, to people nobody cares or visit.

Though Christ came among us weak and empty-handed, he brought us priceless and everlasting gifts. He came to teach us that we are not specks of dust, but sons and daughters of the heavenly Father destined for Eternal Glory.

As Son of God, Jesus shares the same divine nature as the Father and the Holy Spirit. But in the Incarnation, he took on himself our nature which is weak, fragile, and subject to sin and death. In it, he overcame sin, evil, and death.

Because the battle was fought and won in our nature, we are able to profit from it. And He does not demand anything of us that he has not done himself.

There you have the Incarnation. That is the pattern of redemption. God entered our world on our terms. He wanted to feel the grief of our humanity and to show us the greatness of it. Now we have a God who understand us when we speak to him about our pain. But he is a God who will not allow us to wallow it in. He will not be satisfied until he has demanded the best of us.

The Son of God came on earth to share in our humanity so that we might share in his divinity. They wrapped the baby in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger. From these lowly origins, Jesus grew up to show us the greatness of our humanity.

The joy of this day fills our hearts and the whole world. Christ leads us on a far more daring journey than that of the moon-men. The journey to the kingdom of eternal life.