

Date: **December 5, 2021**

Title: **The Love of Christmas**

Scripture Text: [John 3:1-16](#)

Today we continue our observance of Advent, with a focus on LOVE. As a reminder, Advent means 'coming into place of view or being; arrival'. The culture views love as a feeling or emotion, which can come and go, but we see in God's word that it involves action and is intentional. The feeling and emotion can follow, but for love to be properly defined, action must take place. God demonstrated His love for us by sending His Son to pay the penalty for our sin. As we hear more about God's love in today's sermon, consider how do you show God your love for Him?

## I. The Mission of the Savior (John 3:16-17)

Many people memorize [John 3:16](#) but few meditate on it. It is easy to read familiar passages and not pause to consider what God is saying. In these verses we see God's love demonstrated! His love is both unconditional and eternal. There never has been, or will ever be, a moment when God stops loving you.

- Quote [John 3:16](#) (include [vs 17](#) if you can).
- Describe what these verses mean.
- Make it personal, what does it mean to you to know how God showed His love for you.
  - How can remembering how God showed His love for you help you as you celebrate Christmas?

## II. The Method of Salvation (John 3:1-15)

Jesus encounters a Pharisee named Nicodemus. He is described as an influential man among the Jews. He approaches Jesus seeking understanding. Jesus shares how to be saved, then gives three illustrations to help Nicodemus (and us) understand.

- In [verse 2](#) Nicodemus never got around to asking a question, yet Jesus had an answer. What was it?
- Describe what it means to be 'born again'.
- How do the actions of Jesus, as described in [John 3:16-17](#), help us understand what it means to be born again?
- God provides the *method of salvation*. How is that an expression of His love?
- What are ways you can show Him how much you love Him?
- Read [John 15:9-13](#).
  - How do we remain in Christ's love?
  - Based on [verse 11](#), what is the result of our remaining in Christ's love?
  - What is His command in [verse 12](#)?
  - How can experiencing Christ's love help us love one another?
  - What does it mean to lay down your life for Jesus ([verse 13](#))?
  - How can you do that practically each day?
- Read [John 14:15](#).
  - How do we show Jesus we love Him?
  - What is one thing you can do this week that will show Jesus you love Him and demonstrate Jesus' love to another?

If you have a need or a prayer request, contact the church office at [850.878.5503](tel:850.878.5503), [office@morningsidetlh.org](mailto:office@morningsidetlh.org), or complete the [Prayer Request Form](#)