

Joy to You

December 24, 2025 | Pastor John Weiland

What does it mean to experience the wonders of God's love as something deeply personal?

In this Christmas Eve message, Pastor John Weiland reflects on moments of wonder that shape us. Christmas is not about perfection or earning God's approval. It's about a God who knows us, sees us, and still chooses to draw near.

[Isaiah 9:2](#),

The people who walk in darkness

Will see a great light;

Those who live in a dark land,

The light will shine on them.

The Wonders of God's Love

The phrase "the wonders of His love" is not abstract or sentimental.

- God's love is specific, tangible, and demonstrated.
- The greatest wonder of God's love:
 - He sent His Son
 - Born in a manger
 - Lived a sinless life
 - Died for us
- Christmas is the clearest, greatest example of God's love in action.

Why We Come to Church at Christmas

- Tradition
- Family expectations
- Habit
- Curiosity
- Regardless of the reason, God knows why each person is here.

Why Jesus Came to Earth at Christmas

- God wants to draw us to Himself
- God is fond of us
- The truth that God delights in us is one of the greatest wonders of His love.

John 1:1-5,

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of mankind. 5 And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not grasp it.

Jesus: Light in the Darkness

Jesus is described as:

- The Word
- Fully God
- The source of life
- The Light that shines in darkness

Darkness does not overcome or comprehend the Light.

Jesus came for the whole world, but His love is also deeply personal.

Eternal Life and Real Hope

- Eternal life means more than life after death:
- It means pain, grief, sorrow, and numbness are not permanent
- These struggles have an expiration date
- God's love and the life found in Christ last forever.
- Christmas reminds us of salvation, the ultimate gift born out of love.

Grace for the Imperfect

- Many struggle with regret, shame, or the belief that they are unworthy of God's love.
- The gospel is different from every other message:
 - It is not about perfection
 - It is not about earning God's approval
- Jesus came precisely because we cannot earn it.
- Christmas is not about making ourselves presentable to God.
 - Jesus makes us presentable to the Father.

God Sees You, and Loves You

- God does not ignore or overlook our brokenness.
- When God looks at us, He sees:
 - A broken but beloved creation
 - Someone made in His image
- The cross absorbed judgment, wrath, and condemnation.
- We do not need to hide from God. He sees us and still loves us.

The Power of the Incarnation

- God chose to come as a baby:
 - Helpless
 - Dependent
 - Patiently growing into humanity
- Jesus fully entered our human experience.
- This proves God's deep fondness for humanity:
 - He made His Son like us
 - Without sin, yet fully human
- Jesus was perfect—and was killed for it—so we could be redeemed.

[John 1:12,](#)

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.

The Message of Christmas

- Christmas celebrates:
 - God's love for the broken
 - Grace for the weary
 - Hope for the hurting
- No matter what you brought into the room—joy, pain, grief, numbness—the message remains the same:
 - God loves you
 - He sent His Son for you
 - Jesus died, rose again, and invites you into eternal life
- God wants you with Him—and with His people.

Closing:

The wonder of Christmas is not just that Christ was born—but that God's love is personal, patient, and relentlessly pursuing every heart.