

December 21, 2025
The Gifts of Christmas
The Gift of Presence

On Christmas Eve the center, white Advent candle is lit. It is the Christ candle. It is a visible reminder that the One whom we have anticipated and longed for has arrived. Jesus' arrival gives us the gift of His presence. His birth is the fulfillment of the promise made through the prophet Isaiah, "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (which means God with us).

Additional Verses:

Genesis 4:16	Exodus 25:8	1 Kings 8:10-11
2 Chronicles 7:1	Ezekiel 10:18	Isaiah 7:10-14
Matthew 1:18:25, 28:20		Hebrews 4:15-16

Outline:

1. Jesus is sympathetic towards us.

2. Jesus is accessible to us.

3. Jesus is present with us.

Study Questions:

1. How was man's ability to be in God's presence shattered in the Garden of Eden? What are some ongoing consequences of that today?

2. Why has God always desired people to approach Him? What truths does this communicate about God?

3. How does Jesus as a sympathetic high priest impact the lives of believers? How do you see this in your life?

4. How does Jesus make it possible for us to come into God's presence? Why are we encouraged to come into His presence?

5. How is Jesus present with believers now? How does this comfort you in your daily life?

6. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to respond to God today?