

Childrens Service 22.12.19

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Preacher: Reverend David MacLeod

[0 : 0 0] Good morning everyone and a warm welcome to the service this morning. It's good to see everyone here. It's good to see some visitors with us. Some who are not so much visitors but returning students and family members and it's good to see a good number today and all are warmly welcome to the service.

There's tea and there's coffee after the service. Please stay behind if you're able to. The notice, let me just go through these quickly. There's some things here which I want to highlight. There's some things that I haven't made it on here that I need to highlight as well.

First of all to see the evening service tonight at six will be a baptism service and little baby Olivia, don't think she's here today is she?

No she's not here today. She'll be here tonight. She will be baptized by her grandfather and I'm guessing that's the Reverend Petrie over there. So welcome and we're looking forward to you taking that part of the service this evening.

So six o'clock tonight. There'll be a fairly short service because there's the carols for the community after that. But that's six o'clock tonight, the baptismal service. And Olivia's grandfather will do the baptism and I'll take the rest of the service hopefully.

[1 : 1 8] The community carol service is in the community centre afterwards at 8pm. And as you can see in the course of the week, what's not on the sheet here, what should be on the sheet, I'm sorry about that, is that the watch night service is on Tuesday at half past 11.

So that's Christmas Eve, Tuesday at half past 11, the watch night service. And I'll lead that service hopefully. And Duncan McKellar, who's a ministry apprentice down in London, now will be taking, he'll be giving a short message at the service on Tuesday night.

So be encouraged to come to that. Fairly short service that takes us from Christmas Eve over into Christmas Day. So that's half past 11 until about quarter past 12. Please note the prayer meeting is not on Wednesday this week, it's on Thursday at half past 7.

And the service is next Sunday. Morning service hopefully I'll take myself. And the evening service is a Gaelic service which will be taken by the Reverend Kenneth Ferguson.

The Isle Air tragedy at the Harris War Memorial, there'll be a short service at 10.20am on New Year's Day. So please make a note of that also. And the rest of the intimations I'm going to leave you to read just at your own convenience.

[2 : 4 0] Let's worship God now. And let's sing to his praise. We sing from Mission Praise 47. Boys and girls, are you in good voice this morning?

Well you're going to have to be because I'm not in good voice this morning. Boys and girls, are you in good voice this morning? Pardon? Yes. Pardon? Yes. One more time, pardon?

Yes. Okay. Well we look forward to hearing you speak back to me this morning. Because this is a children's service this morning. Okay. Let's close our eyes and let's bow our heads and let's speak to God in prayer.

Amen. Dear Lord, we thank you for this day and we thank you for all that we remember on this day. All that we've sung about even in that first hymn.

We thank you for all that happened so far away so many years ago in Bethlehem. Where there was one who was laid in a manger as a baby who was actually more powerful than all of the world.

[3 : 55] We can't understand it. But we thank you, Lord, that you are the God who gives us faith to believe it. That you came from heaven to earth, Lord Jesus, so that we could be made fit to go from earth to heaven.

Amen. We thank you, Lord, for your love for us, that you would come to save us, to be our saviour. And we ask, Lord, that you would help every one of us, whether we are very young here today, or whether we are in our middle age years in life, or whether we might be coming to the end of our days.

Help us, we pray, to remember the Lord Jesus, to see the Lord Jesus in all that we read, in all that we think about in this service today. And help us, we pray, all of us, to take hold of the Lord Jesus as our saviour and our Lord.

We know that we are sinners who cannot come to you unless you take our sin away. And we thank you that the Lord Jesus came to cast out our sin and to be born in our hearts when we believe.

So help us to fix our eyes upon Jesus today. Give us faith that we would believe in Jesus today. And help us to know that the Lord Jesus is near to us in all that we do.

[5 : 16] We thank you for all who are here today, all the boys and girls, and the songs that they'll sing and the Bible passages that they'll read. We thank you for the year that they've had in Sunday school, the different things that they've learned.

And we pray that the Holy Spirit would take back to their minds and their memories regularly, the things that they've learned in Sunday school about how much you love them and how much, Lord God, you love each one of us.

We pray that the young ones would remember you in their early days and that they would give their lives to you and walk close with you every day of their lives.

So bless each one who is here today. We thank you for some who've been away from us for a long time and who are back for a period of holiday. And we ask that you would refresh them and that you would watch over them, Lord, and that you would give them a good time with their families.

We pray, Father, for those who would want to be with us today but who can't be with us. Some who are sick, some who are in hospital and who are in care homes and who would love to be here but who aren't strong enough.

[6 : 27] And we ask, Lord Jesus, that you would be very close to them and that they would know that you are close to them and that they would know that they are remembered even today as we have them in our mind's eye as we come to you in prayer.

So be near to us, Lord, we pray. Take away our sin and give us strength for all that you call us to do. And we ask this in Jesus' name and for Jesus' sake.

Amen. Boys and girls, tell me, please, tell me some of the things that you enjoy at Christmas.

Michael? Presence. That was the last answer I was wanting to come to. But as usual, you can read my mind.

Presence. Good, honest answer there, yes. Jono? Big presents. It's an even more honest answer.

[7 : 30] Anything else that you enjoy at Christmas? Come on, speak to me. Bigger presents. Michael? Christmas pudding.

Come on, some of you guys here. Speak to me or I'm going to come forward to you. Henry? Bigger puddings. It's going to be a difficult service.

We've got a group of comedians today, Lois. Having families up, yeah? Caitlin? Christmas crackers, yeah? Jono again?

Playing with toys. Playing with toys. Michael again? Unwrapping candy. Unwrapping candy canes. Somebody down here? What do you think?

Cammie? See, there's nobody else who's speaking to me. Being together at Christmas. Being together, yes. There's lots of good things that we like at Christmas, but I knew that you'd say quite early on that you enjoyed presents.

[8 : 40] And here's a couple of presents that I took from under the Christmas tree. The girls are a bit nervous about me doing this before they got taken hold of and ripped apart.

This one's to grace. And this one has got no name on it. Must be for me. But there's lots of presents under the tree. You get presents, but put your hand up if you've bought any presents.

Yeah? What? There's a lot to think about when you're getting presents, isn't there? You know, you have to think about...

I'm not going to ask you what you got, but did you think carefully, Michael? Did you think carefully about the present that you were going to buy? Yeah? You gave it some thought.

So you've got to think about the present, and then you have to go to the shop. You have to save up your pennies, maybe, before that. And then you have to go over to the shop with your pennies, and you say, I want that one, please.

[9 : 42] And you buy the gift, and they give it over to you. And then you have to take it home, and you've maybe got it in a bag, and you're trying to get into the house with the bag, and hide it so that the person you've got the present for doesn't see it.

And you hide it in a cupboard, and then when you get a quiet minute, you get the wrapping paper out, and you wrap it, and then you put it under the Christmas tree for Christmas morning. There's a lot of things to think about.

Oh, sorry, you put the name on it as well, yeah. You put the name on it. Because it's important that the present is going to the right person.

There's a fair bit of planning, isn't there, in giving gifts. Tell me, what's the greatest gift that God ever gave to us?

See somebody from in the middle section here. The boys are having to work hard on the edges here, but there's not much going on in the middle section. What's the greatest gift that God ever gave us? Who's hands up?

[10 : 44] Hebe? His son. That's right. So who's got John 3.16? Lois, out you come.

This is the first thing for you to remember today. First point today is, Jesus is the gift that was planned. For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Thank you. Jesus is the gift that was planned. Can you say that back to me?

Jesus is the gift that was planned. How much planning do you think was involved in God's gift to us of Jesus? How long do you think he was planning this for?

Anyone want to have a guess? Since Adam and Eve were born. But that's not the right answer.

[12 : 01] It's a good guess, but it's not actually the right answer. Grace? Forever, yeah. Michael? Before the beginning of time.

Who's got the Ephesians chapter 1 verse? Out you come, Grace. Listen very carefully to this.

Ephesians chapter 1. Praise to be the God and Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

In love he predestined us and adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ in accordance with his pleasure and will to the praise of his glorious grace which he has freely given us in the one he loves.

[13 : 21] Thank you, Grace. Listen to this. Listen to this line again in that verse. For he, this is God, for he chose us in him, in Jesus, before the creation of the world.

Before Adam and Eve, even John, God chose us to be in Christ. Before the beginning of time, which is more than our minds can really understand, God decided that he would send Jesus to be our Savior.

And then once time began, God sent prophets who again and again came and pointed us forward to Jesus as Savior.

Micah chapter 5. Who's got that one? Now this is 700 years before Jesus came. And listen to what God says to Micah.

But you, Bethlehem of Ratha, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler of Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. Thank you.

[14 : 44] Bethlehem? Who was born in Bethlehem? Jesus. And 600 years before Jesus came, Isaiah wrote two things. Who's got the Isaiah readings?

Emma? Thank you. Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call him Emmanuel.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders, and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Thank you, Emma.

Who was the child that was born? Jesus. Who was the one that was called Emmanuel? Jesus. 600 years before Jesus came, and Isaiah the prophet was pointing forward to the gift that God had planned.

700 years before Jesus came, Micah was pointing forward to the gift that God had planned. Before the beginning of time, God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in the Trinity were planning this gift of Jesus.

[16 : 01] And 500 years before Jesus came, Zechariah wrote, and I'm just going to read this one myself, Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

Shout, daughter of Jerusalem. See your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a coat, the foal of a donkey. And do you remember, boys and girls, who is it that came into Jerusalem riding on a donkey?

Michael? Well, no, I know what you're thinking of, but Palm Sunday. No? Jesus.

Jesus did. Jesus was the gift that was planned from before the beginning of time.

Now, when we put planning into a gift, it shows the person that we bought the gift for that we love them, doesn't it? Doesn't it? I mean, boys, when you choose a gift for your girlfriends, then it shows them how much you love them, doesn't it, Henry?

[17 : 15] How much must God love us to plan from before the beginning of time and then over all these years that he would send the greatest gift ever into this world, that gift of his son, Jesus.

So Jesus is the gift that was planned. Boys and girls, when I'm standing up here, you don't speak to me so much. So I'm coming down here a bit more. Now, I want you to imagine, boys and girls, that you were going to be living on a desert island.

Can you imagine that? You're going to be living on a desert island. Not scalp. Not scalp. But a desert island, you know, that had palm trees and coconuts and no school.

No electric. And really hot sunshine. So imagine that. You're going to be on a desert island. Not scalp.

Hot one. No school. No electric. Hot sunshine. And you're going to be there for a few years. Okay? You got that in your head? I'm going to show you a couple of things here.

[18 : 40] Imagine you had to choose. You had to choose some things to take with you. What things would you take with you to the desert island?

The phone. Some water. Why would you take the phone, Jono?

What would you do when the charge ran out? Because there's no electric. You'd call for help.

But there's no signal. There's even less signal than scalp. So what do you think? Who would put the answer? Who would take the phone?

Put your hand up if you take the phone. You can't take both. Who would take the water? Yeah. I think that's the wise move. See, there's some things which, there's some things that we could take, you know, to a place like that that would be nice to have.

[19 : 49] Nice to have a phone. And, you know, it would work for a day. But if we had, never mind, but if we had, if we had, if we had water and the water didn't run out, then that would be the sensible thing to take, isn't it?

See, there's a big difference between things that you actually want. We might want phones, we might want iPads, but for life, we don't need them.

But could we survive without water? No, we can't, can we? And if we think not just about life here, but life forever, who do we really need?

If we want to have life forever, who do we really need? Shout out for me. Jesus. Why is that? Why do we need Jesus and only Jesus?

Because no one else can save us from our sin, can we? We just sang that in the, in the carol about Jesus casting out our sin. There's no one else who can take sin from my heart and cast it out, is there?

[21 : 12] If it wasn't for Jesus, the sin in my heart would stay in my heart. But because of Jesus, if we ask him, he'll come into our hearts and he'll cast out our sin and he'll give us life that is forever.

Remember when Joseph had the dream and the angel spoke to Joseph in the dream about the baby that was in Mary. Matthew chapter 1 verse 20.

Who's got that? Read it. Matthew 1 verse 20. Luke. Thank you. Thank you. Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

She will give birth to a son and you are to give him the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sins. Thank you. You will give him the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sin.

If we want to have life that lasts forever, if we want to be saved, then the only one that we really need is Jesus. Remember what Jesus said about if we want to get into heaven.

[22 : 31] John chapter 14 verse 6. Who's got that one? Miriam. Here you come. Do you want me to give you the chair?

Stand up there. There you go. I am the way and the truth and the life no one comes to the Father except me.

Through me. Through me. Brilliant reading. Thank you, Miriam. Thank you. That's what Jesus said. He says, I am the way, I am the truth, I am the life, no one comes to the Father, no one gets saved except through me.

See, Jesus is the gift that we really need. There's lots of things in this world that we might like to have. They might make our lives a little bit more interesting for a wee while.

but the only gift that we really need is Jesus. Just as we need this water to keep us alive physically, we need Jesus and the living water that he gives us to keep us alive spiritually.

[23 : 53] There's lots of things in this world that we can have. We can have loads of money. Some people have lots of money. Some people have wardrobes jam-packed full of clothes.

Some people have barns that are full of all the best machinery you can ever see. But none of these things can save us. Only Jesus can save us.

Matthew chapter 16 and verse 26. Who's got that one? Henry? Is this what Jesus said?

Here you go. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?

his soul? Good reading. Thank you Henry. What does it profit a man? Jesus says, he says, what's the point in gaining the whole world?

[25 : 08] What's the point in having a bank balance that's huge and a wardrobe that's jam-packed and all the best gear in the world and losing your soul? we don't want our souls to be lost do we?

God doesn't want our souls to be lost. He doesn't want anyone to perish. And so God the Son Jesus he left his throne in heaven to be our Savior.

Jesus is the gift that was planned from before the beginning of time and Jesus is the gift that we really need the only gift that we really need.

Okay boys and girls do you remember the first two points? Jesus he's the gift who was he was planned Jesus is the gift who was planned from before the beginning of time and over all these years all the prophets they pointed to the best gift ever that was Jesus God's Son and Jesus is the gift that we need lots of gifts that we we might want to get but Jesus is the only gift that we really need that can give us everlasting life and the third thing is Jesus is the gift that satisfies Jesus is the gift that satisfies you know what this is pardon it's a Snickers yeah see the older people here does anyone remember what they used to be called?

Marathons and they were probably twice that size I think I think all the sweets are getting smaller as we're getting bigger somehow but when I was a little boy these things were called marathons and the advert that was on television that used to advertise these things they used to say marathons really satisfy and they'd have an advert and the guy would open up and he'd take a bite and that would be him satisfied but do you think they do?

[27 : 28] Do you think they did? Stuart do you remember that? Did marathons ever satisfy? Never really did they satisfy they didn't satisfy they might just fill a hole for five minutes but then we were still hungry Jesus is the gift that satisfies I'm going to tell you a wee story which I can't remember was it John McSween or was it Hamish Taylor that told this story in the Gaelic it's a story about a wee boy a wee girl sorry and she really wanted a jumper and so she asked her mum and her dad can I can I get this special jumper and it was a beautiful jumper that had a special design and she really wanted it and she asked for it she said I'll be really good and her mum and dad they went out and they got her the jumper and she was so pleased that she got the jumper and she took it out of the packet and she put it straight on and she wore it all day long this new jumper that she really wanted and now she had on and all day long she had a smile on her face because she was wearing her new jumper and then she went to bed and then the next morning she got up and she put her jumper on again and her shenner said to her that's a really pretty jumper you're wearing do you like it and she scratched her head for a minute and she thought and she said

I do like it but not as much as I did yesterday see the jumper it didn't really satisfy her made her happy for one day but then she wanted another jumper have you ever boys and girls had a toy have you ever had a toy that satisfied you completely have you ever been given a toy and you thought after you got the toy I never want another toy ever again no does anybody it's a problem isn't it no matter what toys we get what presents we get we can be really happy with them but they don't satisfy us forever and let me tell you a secret boys and girls that's not just your problem that's all their problem too and our problem because the things in this world they don't satisfy us sometimes you'll see a mum or dad and they'll say well I'm just going to buy this one more extra pair of shoes and I won't need to buy any more shoes anymore and then in two or three months you'll see them and what are they buying more new shoes or there might be somebody and you might say I never need to buy another fishing rod again after

I buy this next fishing rod and then in six months time what's he doing fishing rods on a new car this is the last car I'll never need to buy three years time I think I'll have a wee look in the garage see whatever it is whether it's a car or a house or clothes or toys we're never satisfied with it there's a story about that Mark chapter 10 I think Caitlin's got this one Mark chapter 10 listen to this story about Jesus as he tells the story about the rich young man as Jesus started on his way a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him good teacher he asked what must I do to inherit eternal life why do you call me good why do you call me good Jesus answered no one is good except

God alone you know the commandments do not murder do not commit adultery do not steal do not give false testimony do not defraud honour your father and mother teacher he declared all these I have kept since I was a boy Jesus looked at him and loved him one thing you lack he said go sell everything you have and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven then come follow me at this the man's face fell he went away sad because he had great wealth thank you Caitlin so there's a story about a man that Jesus met and this man he wanted to speak to Jesus and this man he had a huge big bank account and he had all the money that he needed he could buy whatever he wanted he had great wealth but it didn't satisfy him and when he and when he walked away from

Jesus did you listen to how he walked away from Jesus when he walked away from Jesus how did he walk away what does it say about him he walked away what he walked away sad you know boys and girls Jesus is the gift that satisfies now that's not to say we shouldn't be thankful for all the gifts that God gives us the water that's in our taps the food that's in our cupboards the clothes that's in our wardrobes the toys that are under the tree all these things we can be thankful for these things the homes that we have the roof that's over our heads here in the church all these things we can be thankful for but we need to remember that the only gift that satisfies us in our hearts forever is Jesus Psalm 37 verse 4 who's got that one Katie this is a really important verse let's listen very carefully because if if you and

[33 : 50] I if you and I get this right we'll have hearts that are satisfied always delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart read that from me again that was really good read it again it's so important delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart thank you Katie delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart and you know what the desire of your heart really is it's delight yourself in the Lord God it's not in a new iPad it's not in a new phone it's not in a new big Barbie castle John just joking it's not in a new football game that's not what's going to delight our heart what's going to delight our heart and give us satisfaction in our heart is

Jesus you know there was a man called Augustine who's one of the greatest Christian writers that ever lived he's got big fat books that we still look at because they're so important and he wrote amazing stuff when he was older but see when he was a teenager Augustine was a grumpy moody teenager have you ever put your hand up have you ever met a grumpy moody teenager yes and Augustine when he was a teenager he got into all kinds of trouble he's probably the kind of guy that on a Sunday morning when his mum and dad said it's time for church would have gone I don't want to go to church and put the covers over his head he was a right rebel and he broke his mum's heart his mum was so sad when Augustine got into all kinds of trouble because he kept praying for him and eventually

Augustine he came to Jesus he trusted the Lord Jesus he turned away from all his sin and he turned to the Lord Jesus and do you know what he said do you know what he said when he turned to the Lord Jesus he said this he said our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you maybe there are some teenagers who are here or maybe they're not here today and they've got restless hearts maybe there's some older than teenagers here today who have restless hearts you know Jesus is the only gift that will give us rest and satisfaction in our hearts so boys and girls mums and dads grannies and shenners don't walk away from

Jesus because you walk away sad Jesus is the gift that satisfies so do you remember boys and girls point number one Jesus is the gift that was planned for how long since when since before the beginning of time the second point Jesus is the gift that we Bethany need he's he's not just someone that is nice to have if we want to be saved we need Jesus there's no one else who can save us and the third thing is Jesus is the gift that love to be he's not he satisfies us if we want our hearts to be satisfied then it doesn't matter how many things we get they will leave us sad if we walk away from

Jesus and the final thing is Jesus is the gift that we have to take we have to receive Jesus do you know what these things are Brussels sprouts who likes them who likes them see our family all like Brussels sprouts quite a lot of people actually Brussels sprouts are coming back into fashion so none of the nonsense going on over here Brussels sprouts when do we eat Brussels sprouts Christmas dinner we have our turkey and our cranberry sauce and our roast potatoes and the wee sausages and the gravy and the Brussels sprouts we all get round the table don't we for Christmas dinner now last week with the big ones you can ask them when you get home but we were reading about the disciples and Jesus and Jesus took his disciples and he got them all gathered around a table but he didn't have a dinner of turkey and Brussels sprouts for them what did he have on the table do you think

[39 : 34] Bethany he had bread and wine let me just read this quickly Mark 14 while they were eaten Jesus took bread gave thanks and broke it and he gave it to his disciples saying take it this is my body then he took the cup and he gave thanks and he offered it to them now boys and girls what did the bread and wine help the disciples to be able to understand Lois pardon yes yeah the bread and the wine help the disciples to be able to understand that Jesus came to this world and he came to this world not just to be born at Christmas time we remember that Jesus he was born into this world we think about the angels and we think about the shepherds and we think about all these lovely things but we remember that Jesus came into this world not just to be born did he he came into this world to what to die and

Jesus was just about before he went as he was around this table he was just about to go to a cross and so he took the bread and he took the wine and he said this bread and this wine is going to help you to remember my body and my blood that would be broken and shed so that you could be saved and notice what Jesus said he said take it he said take it trust me said Jesus now boys and girls do you know did all the disciples trust Jesus do you think they did who didn't trust Jesus do you know the name of the disciple who didn't trust Jesus pardon really really

Judas Judas didn't trust Jesus even though he was sitting at that table and even though Jesus was so kind to him and even though he saw all the miracles and even though he must have felt how much Jesus loved him and yet he didn't trust Jesus he didn't he didn't accept the gift of Jesus and he was never saved and he was never satisfied in his heart he was lost and I want to say to the boys and girls and I want to say to the men and the ladies as well don't be like Judas the best gift ever has been offered to us in Jesus but we have to take him see on

Christmas morning underneath the Christmas tree all the gifts will be there but we have to take them don't we we have to open them up and if we don't take them and if we don't open them up we don't get any enjoyment from them and it's the same with Jesus Jesus is God's gift to us he was planned from before the beginning of time he's the only one who can save us he's the only one who can satisfy us but we have to take him into our lives we have to trust him and ask him to come in to our hearts when do you think we should do that when do you think we should do that boys and girls Bethany today you know all these gifts under your tree you better not touch them till Christmas morning but the best gift ever you better not leave him until

Christmas morning you better take him today today if you hear the voice of God offering you his son don't put it off but trust in the Lord Jesus that you're going to sing now someday he's coming back and on the day that Jesus comes back you and I won't be able to trust him because he'll be right in front of us and we'll see him with our eyes and we'll hear him with our ears but today we have the chance to take the Lord Jesus into our lives as our saviour so can you remember Jesus he's the gift that was planned from before the beginning of time Jesus is the gift that we that we need Jesus is the gift that satisfies and Jesus is the gift that we need to take because remember the countdown is getting lower every day one day he's coming back and we need to take him before he comes back and now may the grace of our

[45 : 36] Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the fellowship of God the Holy Spirit be with us all both now and forever more Amen