

Rev. Randall Hubbard  
Isaiah 52:7-10  
Hebrews 1:1-6  
John 1:1-18

CHRISTMAS DAY  
December 25, 2011

Yesterday early, beginning at 11 o'clock in the morning, my family gathered together to celebrate our Christmas. We sort of have to do it early because, I don't know, I have commitments (laughter) Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. So my family's tradition has always been a Christmas Eve family. Always have gathered for Christmas Eve, had our gift exchange, and the like. Yesterday as we were gathering, it was a wonderful experience – the little ones – the next generation is coming along. The little ones. It was amazing watching my parents with their children and their grandchildren and their great-grandchildren and spending time with my great-nieces and –nephew. Two of them were born this year so they are just itty-bitty, ever so tiny, and so cute. They had little bows in their hair. They were adorable. Just that holy innocence, if you will, of an infant.

It had to remind me that we gather for Christmas to celebrate the birth of a baby – a baby who is the savior of the world, very much like the little babies that I held yesterday and those when you gather with family and friends, the little ones. Those little babies, and that holy innocence.

And that's what this celebration is about. We celebrate that holy innocence of the birth of a baby – Jesus the Christ – the Son of God – the Son of Man – God the Creator, humbly becoming the created, all because of God's great love for us.

God putting into motion this plan, this plan for us, for our salvation. God showing us how much God loves us. How cherished, how precious we are in the eyes of our God that our God gifts us with God's own son.

The Son of God humbly taking on our flesh, being born into this world as we are born into this world to show us, guide us, direct us on that path that leads us to that awareness, that knowledge, that understanding, of how much our God truly loves us that God would send God's own son, who would be born into the world, who would suffer and die for us, for our salvation, to show us how much our God loves us. How much our God wants us to experience the redemption of God's love. To restore us to who we are as God's children, as God's people in faith. And it all began with the birth of a baby - the birth of Jesus Christ, the son of God, the son of Mary, our Lord and our Savior.