

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

Isaiah 9:2,6,7; Psalm 72:5-11; Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 2:8-20; John 1:1-9

What do you see?

We showed some pictures on the screen, then took them away and asked a question;

How many sheep are in the picture?

What is the snowman holding?



What other language is on the card other than English?

What is the first line of the carol from which these words come?



What do you see in this picture? Do we see shoppers looking for Christmas presents, people looking for the right gift for someone they love? There are people looking for something that will make their lives better or make life better for someone else! Maybe we see people looking for something that they can't buy, looking for peace in their hearts perhaps, looking for joy, or for hope, or for love? Where are they looking for these gifts? Are they looking in shopping?

What do you see? We've read lots of Bible pieces this morning; what have we heard? We've heard about the prince of peace, about hope; we've heard about a king being promised. That story that we've been reading and singing this morning is all about Jesus, the coming of Jesus as a King, as the Saviour, as the Messiah sent from God. Hundreds of years before, some people "saw" God's promise of a Messiah, of a King. The story of the baby born in Bethlehem to Mary and Joseph, with the story of angels and shepherds and wise men is the story of God's son coming into world and the world is changed forever by His coming. The story has all these words in its heart: peace, joy, hope, love.



What do we see? We see that God loves us. That is what the story is all about, the love that God has for the world in sending His Son. All the story we read, all the songs we sing tell us about Jesus' coming, and tell us about the love of God for us and for the world. God loves us; that fills us with joy. God loves the world, so we tell the world all about JC and His love.

What do we see? Do we see Jesus at Christmas time? Do we see that at the centre of Christmas is the story of a baby born to be the Saviour of the world? The shepherds saw that and they danced all the way home, with hearts full of joy. Do we see Jesus full of peace, hope, and love for us? Do we see God at work to save and bless the world, to save and bless us? Do we see Jesus our King, to live in His ways? Can we help others to see that too?