



The Rev. Alan Sutherland, Rector

January 4, 2009

Christmas 2

Children's sermon

2nd Sunday after Christmas. Have you all looked carefully at the figures in the stable?

Last year they were pretty faded and some were chipped. Vickie Freeman has spent the last year restoring them and I want to thank her for doing that.

They have been restored and a couple of them have had a couple of changes.

Wise man-. First of all do you see that the wise men are half way down the aisle? That's because the wise men did not arrive the night that Jesus was born. They arrived a little later so we remember their visit on Tuesday January 6th. That is called the feast of the epiphany. It is the twelfth day of Christmas. Epiphany means manifestation or showing forth and this is the day when we remember how God called the wise men through a star to see the baby Jesus. The epiphany, the manifestation, the showing forth of gods love tells us that Gods love is for everybody.

I want to show you one of the king's robes

What do you notice about it?

A tartan robe. Vickie has given us a king with Scottish heritage. God loves everybody.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Established in 1847

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In the stable we have 3 sheep but I want to look at just one of them. Black sheep. What do we normally associate a black sheep with?

Black sheep of the family- somebody who is different, who we do not talk about. Somebody who is not like us.

Vickie painted a black sheep and it is interesting that the black sheep is closest to Jesus.

You see the power of Christmas is that God came to us in his son not just for the Jews but for all people. Not just for those who were good but for those who were not so good. Through Christ people are restored. People are changed.

It usually takes a long time and a lot of patience by God but by being intentional about saying our prayers, being intentional about being kind, being intentional about being loving we will be changed and restored to who God intends for us to be.

Amen

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