

Call to Worship

In the beginning was the Word ...

It all started with an act of divine self-expression.

and the Word was with God ...

It all comes from the center of God.

and the Word was God.

God is our source.

He was in the beginning with God.

In Christ we encounter God's primal expression, God's first Word.

All things came into being through him,

In Christ we encounter the divine, creative impulse.

and without him not one thing came into being.

In Christ we encounter our connection to the source.

What has come into being in him was life,

The energy of life is from God.

and the life was the light of all people.

The energy of life in us is God's incarnate presence.

May we live as though we know it. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Loving Father, You gave us Your Son Jesus Christ and let Him share our poverty. He brought us grace upon grace, for all that comes from You is a free gift.

Accept our thanks for the moments when we accepted Your gifts and shared them with one another. Accept our thanks for the times we listened attentively to Your Son's words and put them into practice.

Help us go forward with hope and joy, with joy and mutual encouragement, with the companion in life You have given us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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**Hope In Christmas; Amid COVID-19
(Christmas Is For Real People)**

**John 1:1-18 (The Message Bible)
Pastor Harold Long / November 29, 2020**

1. _____ is _____ with skin on.

1 Corinthians 8:6, ⁶ yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

2. _____ is in you and you are in _____. You are literally _____ with skin on.

Galatians 2:20, ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

3. Despite _____ and _____, you can still provide _____ for those in your circles.

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

John 1:16-18, ¹⁶⁻¹⁸ We all live off his generous bounty, gift after gift after gift. We got the basics from Moses, and then this exuberant giving and receiving, This endless knowing and understanding— all this came through Jesus, the Messiah.

Hebrews 13:5, ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

Reflections Questions:

1. How does knowing God took such great lengths to be “with us”—that is, with you—affect you?
2. How do you keep your focus on Jesus during this season when there are so many other pressures and distractions?
3. How can we pray for you?

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