**The Purpose of Christmas
December 4, 2016
Advent 2016**

**Luke 2:1-20**

* **Why is Christmas such a big deal**
* Christmas is a time for celebration
* **Luke 2:10** 10But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.
* Christmas is a time for salvation
* **Luke 2:11** 11Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.
* Christmas is a time for reconciliation
* **Luke 2:14** 14“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”
* **A Time for Celebration**
* **Three reasons to celebrate**
* **God loves you**
* **John 3:16**
16For 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.
* **Romans 8:35-39**
35Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” 37No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
* **God is with you**
* **Hebrews 13:5**
15Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name
* **Genesis 2:18**
18The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”
* **Psalm 68:6**
6God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing;
  but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.
* **God is for you**
* **John 3:17**
17For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.
* **Romans 8:31**
31What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?