

Christmas message: The names of Jesus
Sunday 9th December 2018 – Family Nativity Service
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In the beginning, in the very beginning, there was nothing. Before there were stars, before the world or the ocean or any living things, there was nothing. Nothing but God. Only God. Then God decided to create the universe, and God did this (- how did God create the universe?-) by speaking a Word. God spoke the universe into being with light and power – this was the Word, and the Word was born.

The Word spoke into being the stars and the earth, and trees and birds and people. But through the years people forgot about God, the Word was not heard, and people got lost. So God decided to be born in a different way. So God sent his Word again, and this time the Word was born in the dark, and in the quiet. The almighty Word that spoke the universe into being came this time as a tiny little baby. And was given a new name. What was his name?

Jesus

Jesus was his name.

At Christmas we celebrate Jesus and his birth, because he was sent from the heart of God into the world
for us. for you. for me

And right now, here in our hearts, he is being born again. When we let his love grow in our love, Jesus gets another name – he becomes our friend. So we call him Jesus Christ, friend of little children, my friend, Saviour and Lord.

This is the greatest gift, to receive Jesus. God gives and gives and gives to us, and so at Christmas time we join in with God, and give gifts to each other, to celebrate love, to share joy, to receive peace.

Can we sing Away in a Manger again, with the adults this time ... and we sing it remembering Jesus being born a long time ago, with the cows and the sheep, in the night, in the quiet. And we also remember Jesus being born in our hearts, as we sing "Be near me, Lord Jesus. I ask you to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray."