

Tonight is a night of celebration. It's a glorious time that we get to spend together. That we get to come and be a family. The time of year that most people look forward to is today. They get to relive their childhood. They get to be with friends and family that they don't normally see. They get to share the anticipation of Christ's birth.

We've done that. We've done a great job this year coming together and celebrating Christ's love all year long. We've done such a fantastic job that we know tomorrow will come. Tomorrow will come, and everything will change. We've been waiting. We've been anticipating, and now you'll be here. He'll be here.

But what does that mean? That means tomorrow, we're going to get fat. We're going to get happy. We're going to find all kinds of presents under our tree. Because we've all been on the nice list, nobody's been on the naughty list. I am looking at three of them right now. But we get to celebrate that some more. We get to celebrate God's love for us because we get the gift that he gave us. We get the gift of his son. We get the gift of knowing that he died for our sins. We get the gift of knowing that one day this crazy world is all going to make sense. We have the gift of knowing that one day our suffering will be over. Our pain will be over. We get the gift of knowing that one day we'll get to be with all of those we miss a lot.

For a lot of us, this isn't always a happy time. There's a lot of people out there right now who are hurting, who are struggling, and they need God's love in our life more now than they could have ever imagined before. And we get to give them that gift. We get to give them the gift of our love, of our help, of our commitment, of our faith and God. We get to share that gift with everyone tomorrow.

But what happens on Friday? What happens on Saturday? What happens next Tuesday? For everyone in this room, I know nothing's going to change. I know that you are all going to continue to live that life. You're going to continue to share God's gift with everyone you see, with everyone you know, with everyone you meet.

But not everyone can say that. Not everyone is going to come out of tomorrow, thinking that Friday is a beautiful day. Not everyone's going to come out of the Christmas season thinking that they're going to keep sharing God's love. They're not going to come out of this season, thinking that every day is Christmas. But we're taught that by kids, right?

We're taught to always be on the nice list. We can be on the nice list, so we can get gifts all the time. What does that mean when we're adults? To all of us here, not because we get a gift. Not because we get a gift because we already know we get that gift every day. We know that every morning we can call anyone in this room. We know that every morning we can call anyone in this room, and they will be there for us. We know that some of us stalk some of our neighbors, drive by every day to make sure that their TVs are on. So, we know that they're okay.

We get to share that love with everyone in this room, and it's wonderful. It's a wonderful gift that we've been given. That we get to share this love for God. This love, and all because of the gift he gave us all because of the gift that God shared on this night. All because of the gift, they made this sacrifice. They made this sacrifice so that all of us will get to share and see him in heaven.

We get to share in the eternal life. We get to share our grace, our love, our hope, our joy, our peace. We get to share all of it because of this beautiful, beautiful gift that we celebrate each

and every day. And now, I'm going to ask all of you to celebrate in this gift with me as we do our communion.

God be with you.