

Last night, I read the same parable, we just read right now. And it sounded a little different last night because we're at a different version. When I read Isaiah today, we read it a couple of weeks ago too, but it sounded different today than it did a couple of days ago. And I read each one from a different text last night. And what we normally read here is from the new standard revised version. But today, I read from the actual Tanaka, the Hebrew Bible, for Isaiah and read it in Hebrew. And then with Luke we read from a Catholic Bible. And I did this because I wanted to show how Jesus is a gift to all of us. Not just us here in the church, not just us who are Christians, not just us who want to follow him, but he was a gift to everybody.

We all celebrate that same love that God has whether or not we do it the same way. We obviously don't do things the same way. If we did, then we wouldn't have a million different religions. We wouldn't have a different million traditions; we'd be doing things the same. But we don't because we all have different views. We all have different ideas of what it means to love God, what it means to have his love in our hearts. Sometimes we have it. Sometimes we have a hard time finding it, but we know that no matter what it's still there. And he speaks to us and how we can hear him, whether it's in Bluey PJs, whether it's in a Bible, or whether it's some stranger that we meet on the street who just comes up and says, "Hi, Merry Christmas." His love is meant for us, from everybody and to everybody. That's why I wanted to do it like that.

Last night we made sure that the light stayed light in here. We made sure all the candles remained lit. People ask why we bring the candles in at the beginning of every service, and why we take them out at the end of every service, and what it is. It's a symbol of God's message. It's a symbol of God's love. It's a symbol of God's word. In the beginning was the word, and we bring that word in every day. Every service, we bring that in, and then we take it out. And that's supposed to be us carrying it out and sharing it with the world.

We remember his message and his love. We left it last night. so the people driving by could see the candlelight inside the church. So they could be reminded. It isn't just from 10: 30 to 11: 30 every Sunday. But God's message is out. It's God's messages out all of the time, whether we're directly giving it to people or not. It's always here in the church. It's always everywhere you see light. Everywhere you see darkness. God's message is still there. So we left the light, we left God's word going all night long in anticipation for the birth of his son and anticipation of today, of the greatness that we all get to share in his time.

And I promised today, it was gonna be short and quick, so that's going to be it from that. But The point is God's love is all around us. And it's for everyone. It's not for the rich. It's not just those who go to church. You know, God spoke and had the angel speak to the shepherds. The shepherds are generally the poorest people around, and the people with the poorest social skills. They're out and all they talk to are sheep all day. Those are the people he went to. Jesus walked with sinners; he walked with tax collector's, prostitutes. He went to them to share as well. Not just the priest, not just the rabbis, not just the rich, it's for everyone.