

Christmas 1A  
John 1:1-18  
The Reverend Bonnie Underwood  
December 31, 2018

### Remember to Love

Good Morning, Merry Christmas, and almost Happy New Year!

What a blessing to have Jeff and the choir lead us in today's lessons and carols. It's a wonderful gift to hear the Christmas story, in Scripture and song, helping us to remember the ancient messages of angels, prophets, and apostles calling us back to God's truth: that in spite of our sin, rebelliousness, and self-centeredness, God is always with us, reaching out to us, in love.

For in God's own time, God sent us his only Son to walk this earth with us. The Word who was, and is, and is to come, humbled himself to live among us that we may find new life — may be transformed and re-created — in him.

As we continue to celebrate this blessed Christmas season, remember how Jesus came into the world: a poor child of an oppressed people, without status or wealth or security, a child who would grow and show us the way to live a God-focused life.

Remember what Jesus asks of us: to love the Lord our God with all our heart and our soul and our mind and our strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

And remember what it means to live our lives loving like Jesus. It means we're called to welcome the stranger; to feed the hungry; to compassionately care for the sick, for prisoners, and the oppressed; to strive for justice and peace among all people, regardless of race, gender, creed, sexuality, or country of origin; and to respect the dignity of every human being. And we do all this for Christ's sake.

For the Word became flesh and lived among us and through him we have received and continue to receive grace upon grace. Remember this great gift of God's love and spread Christ's light to all we encounter, through both word and deed. Amen.