**Sunday, December 27th, 2020**

**John 1:1-14**

A father was sitting with Amy, his 3-year-old daughter,

          in his parked car on a hot summer day.

Mom had run into the store for just a few things.

Frustrated by having to wait in the heat, and limited by her car seat,

          Amy put her head out the window and yelled:

“Please, God! Get me out of this!”

She was crying out for a savior.

Because she couldn't free herself, Amy needed someone bigger

          and more powerful, to rescue her from her frustrating predicament.

We have felt like that. We often feel like yelling with Amy:

          “Please, God! Get me out of this!”

Jesus came to show us there is a way out, and He is it.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Leaving his heavenly home,

          Jesus put on human flesh to bring us God's Good News.

Unless a person communicates with us, in speech or gestures,

          or even facial expressions, we can't get to know them.

They remain a mystery.

God broke the silence.

God, too, was a mystery until he broke his silence.

He spoke in the only way we could truly understand.

He spoke once, and all creation sprang to life – quasars, oceans, whales,

          giraffes, orchids, beetles, sunsets, and rainbows.

He spoke again and the Word took the form of a human, Jesus Christ.

The Gospel of John tells the story of the Word who became flesh,

          and lived among humans.

Jesus was the Word.

John used language with special meaning for both Greek and Jewish readers.

In Greek philosophy Word meant reason, wisdom, and intellect.

It often referred to the power or reason undergirding all creation.

For Jews, Word had great significance.

It was an expression of God's wisdom.

God spoke his Word to create the world and to transform his people.

It all happened in a moment.

In that moment a spectacular thing occurred.

God became a human.

While the creatures of earth walked unaware, Divinity arrived.

Heaven opened and placed its most precious gift in a human womb.

God became a fetus.

Holiness sleeping in a womb.

The creator of life being created in human form.

God was given eyebrows, elbows, kidneys, a spleen and a heart.

God came near to us.

No hype, no party, no hoopla.

Were it not for the shepherds, there would have been no reception.

And were it not for a group of star-gazers, there would have been no gifts.

For thirty-some years he felt everything we have ever felt.

He felt weak.

He grew weary.

He knew failure.

His feelings were hurt.

His feet got tired.

And his head ached.

He felt loneliness and separation from his father.

When we want to know what God is like, we can look at Jesus.

"Can anything make me stop loving you?" God asks.

"Watch me speak your language, sleep on your earth, and feel your pain.

You wonder if I understand how you feel?

Listen and watch what Jesus says and does."

"You wonder how long my love will last?

Find the answer on a splintered cross, on a craggy hill.

That is me you see up there, your maker, your God, nail-stabbed and bleeding. Covered in spit and sin-soaked.

That is your sin I am feeling.

That is your death I am dying.

That is your resurrection I am living.

That is how much I love you."

We have a Heavenly Father who is filed with compassion.

A loving Father who hurts when his children hurt.

We have a God who says that even when we are under pressure,

          and feel as if nothing is going to go right,

          he is waiting to embrace us whether we succeed or fail.

He doesn't come quarreling and wrangling and forcing his way into anyone's heart.

He comes into our hearts like a gentle lamb, not a roaring lion.

With everything he did and said, he communicated with us.

He spoke our language so we could understand.

Jesus, shows us God, through his words and actions,

          by his signs and miracles, by his stories, and his teachings.

We can understand because he speaks our language.

He describes himself in many ways, using words and images familiar to us.

He teaches us that he is the truth and the life, the light of the world,

          the vine and the good shepherd.

Jesus shows us God's wisdom and love.

Christmas is about a baby, born in a stable, who changed the world forever.

Our Heavenly Father sent Jesus so we could understand

          his love and our need for Him.

We know God is powerful and organized and He loves beauty.

God must enjoy watching us enjoy what he has created.

Otherwise, why would he give us so many ways to enjoy it?

He gave us taste buds, then filled the world with incredible flavors

          like chocolate, and cinnamon, and all the other spices.

He gave us eyes to perceive color,

          and then filled the world with a rainbow of shades.

He gave us sensitive ears, and then filled the world with rhythms and music.

Our capacity for enjoyment is evidence of God's love for us.

He could have made the world tasteless, colorless, and silent.

He didn't have to make the world so enjoyable.

But he did, because he loves us.

Jesus came down to our world so God could communicate with us face to face.

If God had wanted to communicate with birds, he would have become a bird.

If God had wanted to communicate with cows, he would have become a cow.

But God wanted to communicate with us, so he became one of us.

He didn't send an angel, or a prophet, or a politician, or an ambassador.

He came himself.

He wanted to communicate with us personally.

          because he cares about us,

                    because He loves us so much.

The Sunday School teacher asked the class why Jesus was called the Word.

The class was quiet for a few minutes thinking.

Finally, an eight year old girl said: "Jesus is called the Word,

          because Jesus is everything God wanted to say to us."

AMEN