

Sermons at All Saints Anglican Church of Luxembourg

Preached by Rev Alison Heal on Christmas Day 2025

Bible passages: Luke 2:1-14

With thanks to Jane Hulme, <https://www.allageworshipresources.org/>

Do you remember this treasure chest, which we kept in church over the summer?

What was in it during our summer services?

What were we looking for? (God's treasure in our lives)

Tell us a bit about your treasures, the gifts or good memories you've already received this Christmas time.

Today there is something in our treasure chest. Who'd like to come and find out what's inside?

First layer: baby Jesus! Jesus is the treasure of Christmas.

How, and why can a baby be called a treasure?

Well, this baby is no ordinary baby. Jesus is God's Son, he is God with us, and he came to live with humans to give us precious and valuable treasures.

Inside this treasure chest are some of the treasures that Jesus came to give us and I need four volunteers to come and help me bring them out of the chest.

What does your piece of treasure have written on the outside of it? (Volunteer replies "LOVE")

Thank you....

The first treasure that Jesus has come to give us is His LOVE.

Each one of us is so precious to God the Father that He was willing to send His Son Jesus to earth for us.

Jesus came with a message from our Heavenly Father.

The message is "I love you".

He says that to each one of us.

But Jesus didn't simply come to *tell* us how much we are loved. He came to *show* us how much we are loved.

Let's find out what He did as we look at our 2nd treasure. (Take out Parcel 2 from the treasure chest and hand to volunteer 2)

What does your piece of treasure have written on the outside of it? (Volunteer replies "FORGIVENESS")

The second treasure that Jesus has come to give us is FORGIVENESS

When the angels spoke to the shepherds, they said: “Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you” (Luke 2:11)

A Saviour is someone who comes to our rescue...but why do we need a rescuer?

We need a rescuer because we mess up and do things wrong at times. And we also live in a world with a lot of sad and bad things, as well as good and happy, things. Our whole world needs Jesus as a rescuer.

All of the sad, bad and wrong things stop us from seeing, and knowing, and reaching out for God’s love – it’s like he’s separated from us.

Jesus came to earth to bridge that separation, to close the gap between humans and God. He did in showing us the way, when he lived, but he did it even more when he was crucified on a cross, rising from the dead 3 days later. If we choose to put our trust in Him.....it is like He takes a big eraser and rubs out all of the wrong things we have done.... We are forgiven..... Not only that, but He gives us something else.

Let’s find out what He gives us as we un-wrap our 3rd treasure. (Take out Parcel 3 from the treasure chest and hand to volunteer 3)

What does your piece of treasure have written on the outside of it? (Volunteer replies “PEACE WITH GOD”) • Would you like to open it?

The third treasure that Jesus has come to give us is PEACE WITH GOD

Once we have been forgiven for our sins, we can enjoy a relationship with our Heavenly Father.....we have peace with Him. All is now well between us and our Heavenly Father, as the angels said to the shepherds.... “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.” (Luke 2:14) This is an amazing gift....but there is more.

Let’s find out as we see our 4th treasure. (Take out Parcel 4 from the treasure chest and hand to volunteer 4) What does your piece of treasure have written on the outside of it? (Volunteer replies “PRESENCE”)

Thank you....

The fourth treasure that Jesus has come to give us is his powerful PRESENCE

Jesus has promised to always be with His followers. (Matthew 28:20)

He has promised that the powerful Holy Spirit will come and live inside them.

(John 14:16-17)

He gives us all that we need to live the life that God has called us to live.

He reassures us through the hard times that God has not abandoned us and is at work in our lives.

We live our best lives when we see where he is at work in the world, and join him in his work of healing and peace.

We live our best lives when we don't try and live in our power, but we give our lives to Jesus our Lord, and ask for his Holy Spirit to guide the way.

So four of the incredible treasures that Jesus has come to give us.... • The treasure of God's love • The treasure of God's forgiveness • The treasure of peace with God • The treasure of God with us, now, and always

If you would like to welcome Jesus and all the treasures He has come to bring you into your life this morning, please join in the responses to this prayer.

Lord Jesus, thank you for your great love for us.

Thank you Jesus

We believe that you are the Son of God who came to earth to rescue us.

We believe

We come to you as our Saviour and ask you to forgive us for all the wrong things we have done in our lives.

Please forgive us

We choose to turn away from living as we please and welcome you into our lives as Lord.

We welcome you

Thank you that you offer us the gift of eternal life which we gladly receive.

We receive

Please come and fill us with your Holy Spirit.

Come and fill us

Amen.