

## Crossroads Community Church

The Timmons Family lit the Advent Candle of Love and the children in Sunday school wanted to bless our overseas Canadian soldiers and made them cards, and our heart is to show a little Hope, Faith, Joy and Love away this Christmas?.

The warm anticipation of Christmas met with us this morning, as we continue to prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ in our hearts year after year. The Timmons family humbly lit the candle of Love reminding us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Pastor Don shared announcements and prayed over those in our midst who are struggling with breathing issues, we ask God to be their every breath and return fullness of life to their daily activities. We praised God for the good report of cancer remission for Nathan, and in this brisk season we pray for the elderly asking the Lord to provide them transportation and safety. Worship was joyfully festive and Bob read James 5:16, Psalms 25:5, Matthew 2:20 and our weekly scripture is 1 Corinthians 13:13.

Pastor Don approached the altar with a smile and said, "God's laws are not complicated, they can be summed up into 2, Love God, Love others as yourself, (Mark 12:30-31). The family of God should feel warm, be inviting and loving. At Crossroads our desire is to Leave Others Valued Every day, and we feel that this is what Christmas is all about, it means loving others as God loves us, helping those in need, listening to them and giving of our time. Love is unselfish service unto others, a tribute to who God is, (1John 4:7-8). That kind of love is from God which he showed us by sending His Son, it is manifested by action. Jesus once said, "the world will know you are mine by your love," so let us explore this wonderful love. "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres," (1Corinthians 13:1-7). This scripture is widely recognized and has been used for many weddings, and it states 8 attributes that love is in contrast to 8 attributes it is not. There are 3 Basic concepts of love; how you deal with others, life and yourself. The beneficial attributes are Patience, Kindness, Humility, Truthfulness, Selflessness, Protectiveness, Trusting, Hope and Perseverance. The more we come close to Jesus the more we grow loving and forgiving towards others. The Bible tells us how kind and tolerant God is and we seem amazed at the patience God has with others and we sometimes may become impatient with God when we rather should be humbled with the patience He showed us. The apostle Paul tells us to do what is best for others so that many may be saved, (Romans 2:4, 1Corinthians 10:33).

Beloved this season and throughout the year let our goal be to love like Jesus, let us not keep a naughty grudge list, it is a deterrent to love, kindness and patience towards each other. After all God did so love the world that He gave His One and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. That is what we celebrate at Christmas, we love others and forgive others as God did for us. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love! We Hope in what God has done and will do, faith in Jesus as Savior and love which inspires all the good we do. Have a blessed week as you seek the good of others, Asherey Shalom

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