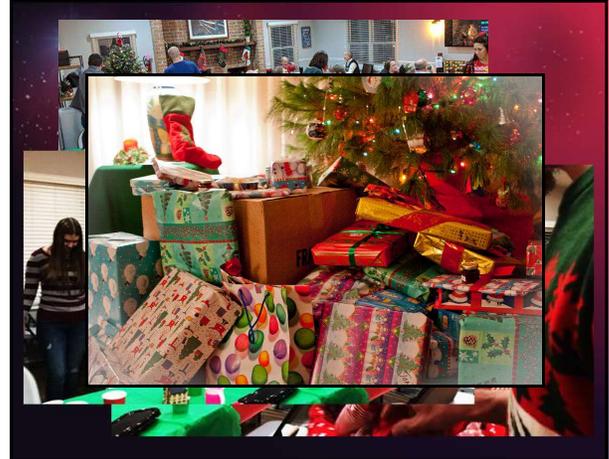


# The Exchanges of Christmas

Advent 2018 - Week #4

## "Beauty for Ashes"



"Unfathomable"  
God's ^ Gift Exchange

"Unfathomable"  
God's ^ Gift Exchange

Week 1

What Child *IS* this?

*Everlasting One... a babe! ...destined to die!  
The God Who always was... became flesh!  
The Invisible One... became visible!  
Darkness... became light!  
Throne room... animal barnyard!  
Sovereign King... servant!  
Rich... poor!*

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Week 2

Made like us (His brothers)  
in every way!

1 John 4:2-3 -

*"This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God:  
Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ  
has come in the flesh is from God..."*

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Week 2  
 Made like us (His brothers)  
 in every way!

*John 1:14 -  
 "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling  
 among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of  
 the one and only Son, who came from the  
 Father, full of grace and truth."*

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Week 2  
 Made like us (His brothers)  
 in every way!

*Colossians 2:9 -  
 "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives  
 in bodily form."*

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Week 3  
 Jesus upended stuff!

Jesus' entry into our world has a way of  
 upending the established order of things  
 and defying or destroying human  
 expectations.

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Week 3  
 Jesus upended stuff!

- Herod
- Shepherds
- Wise Men
- Innkeeper
- Religious Scholars
- People of Bethlehem

“Unfathomable”  
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Week 3  
 Jesus upended stuff!

*Jeremiah 29:13 -  
 "You will seek me and find me when you seek me  
 with all your heart."*

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 Today...  
 Why?

Consider Isaiah...

"The Lord is Salvation"

In his day, Isaiah spoke words  
of mercy & encouragement...  
"good news" to the captives under  
the discipline of God.

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*"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because  
He has anointed me to proclaim good news to  
the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom  
for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the  
blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the  
year of the Lord's favor..."*

Luke 4:18-19  
Isaiah 61:1-3

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*"...to comfort all who mourn, and provide for  
those who grieve in Zion - to bestow on them  
a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of  
joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise  
instead of a spirit of despair.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness, a  
planting of the Lord for the display of his  
splendor.*

Isaiah 61:1-3

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"Mercy" ~ Do!  
Not getting what we ^ deserve!

"Grace" ~ Do not!  
Getting what we ^ deserve!

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It was undeserved!  
&  
It wasn't free!

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*"Today this Scripture is fulfilled  
in your hearing!"*

Jesus ~ Luke 4:21



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*Isaiah 53:4-5*

*“Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for OUR transgressions, He was crushed for OUR iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.”*

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*Isaiah 53:2*

*“He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him...”*

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*Luke 2:7 -*  
*“And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped Him in strips of cloth & laid Him in a manger...”*



*Luke 2:12 -*  
*“And you will recognize Him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.”*

“Unfathomable”  
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*John 11:44 -*  
*“And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in strips of cloth and graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, ‘Unwrap him and let him go free.’”*



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*John 19:40 -*  
*“So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths, with the spices, as is the custom among the Jews to prepare for burial.”*



*"Unfathomable"*  
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*Isaiah 64:6 -*  
*"All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away."*



*"Unfathomable"*  
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*Isaiah 61:1-8*

*Hebrews 12:2*  
*"For the joy set before Him!"*

*...righteousness, a planting of the Lord in the earth that brought us peace... was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed."*

*"Unfathomable"*  
 God's ^ Gift Exchange

*2 Corinthians 5:21*  
*"He who had no sin... BECAME SIN so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."*

*"Unfathomable"*  
 God's ^ Gift Exchange

Martin Luther:  
*"Lord Jesus, I am your sin... You are my righteousness!"*  
*"I have made You what you were not... You have made me what I was not!"*

*"Unfathomable"*  
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