

The heart of CHRISTMAS

Sunday 20 December 2015

The best thing about Christmas is...

BEING WITH OTHER PEOPLE



Why is being **with people** important?

At the heart of the real meaning of Christmas

At the heart of the nature of God



“With” in the heart & nature of God

- Genesis 3: *“Where are you?”*
- Revelation 21: *“God will be at home with people”*
- To Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, David, Solomon...
“I am with you”
- To Israel: *“I will be at home among you and walk with you”*
- In the psalms
 - Psalm 23: *“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, because...”*
 - Psalm 139: *“Where shall I hide from your presence?”*
- Frequently repeated: *“I will never leave you nor forsake you”*



“With” at the heart of Christmas

- John 1: *“In the beginning was the Word ... and the Word became flesh”*
- Matthew 1: *“...they will call him Immanuel (which means God with us)”*
- Philippians 2: *“...being truly God in his nature ... he took on true human nature”*

Jesus literally embodies God’s desire to be with people



So what?

The baby in the manger is **God with us!**

God is not remote – **you are never alone**

Don’t forget **who** you’re celebrating!

