

Sermon Title: **There Was No Place for Them**

Bible: Luke 2:1-20

Where & When: Christmas Eve Worship at Gilroy UMC at 5 pm on December 24th, 2018

Audience: about 53 English-speaking Church Members

1. Who We Are

Let me give you some questions. Among us, who was born in Gilroy? When did you come to Gilroy? Do you remember the first day when you came to Gilroy? Was everything okay? Was there a place for you? Who welcomed you or who helped you to settle down in Gilroy? Have you welcomed or helped someone to settle down in Gilroy? So, I can say it like this. We are welcomed and welcome others. We are helped and help others. Yes, that's who we are: We are loved and love others.

2. Jesus' Birth

When Jesus was born, there was no place for him and his parents. A lot of people had to travel to register for the census. When they arrived in the family hometown, Jesus' family was not able to find any place to stay. Why was there no place for this family? How would you answer? Tons of people and less hotels? Making a reservation too late? No Internet or no Airbnb to search for a room? What is your answer?

My answer is that it was because there was NO Gilroy United Methodist Church. What if Jesus was born in Gilroy? What if we had been there? What could we have done? Definitely, we could have done something for Jesus' family, if we had been there.

3. Where We Are

How about now and here? In 2018 and in Gilroy. We can do something, for ourselves, for our families, for our friends, and for our neighbors. We have love in our hearts. Actually, we are love. As we come to church today, just be there, a place where love is needed. Just be there. God will pour out the love and grace wherever we go. Because we are the Love.

Closing Prayer

Emmanuel God, with your presence, we can be the love. We are the love!
Wherever we are, the love will overflow. In Jesus' name. Amen!