

Sermon Title: **“The Child Lying in a Manger”**

Bible: **Isaiah 52:7-10 & John 1:1-14**

When: on Christmas Eve, December 24th, 2022

Where: about 30 people (plus YouTube streaming viewers) at Gilroy UMC

1. Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas! Thank you so much for coming to our Christmas Eve Service!

Thanks to your presence, it is Merrier Christmas! I prepared several Christmas this or that questions! I need your participation. Are you ready?

Real Tree or Artificial Tree?

White Lights or Colored Lights?

Angel on Tree or Star on Tree?

Christmas Carols or Christmas Movies?

Shop Online or Go Shopping?

Shop 2,000 gifts or Wrap 2,000 gifts?

Christmas Sweater or Christmas Pajamas?

Cook a holiday meal or Clean up the dishes?

Open presents on Christmas Eve or on Christmas morning?

Giving Gifts or Receiving Gifts?

2. The Child Lying in a Manger!

Thank you so much for all of your participation! I hope that it was a fun Christmas this or

that. We might need to put ourselves in others' shoes. Then, we can understand and love each other more and better. This is another this or that question: Cat or Dog? When I was young, I had a Chihuahua. Our family gave him our family name. His first name was A-ji. And his last name was Kang. Actually, Dog in Korean is "Kang A-ji". We gave him a fun name. Now he was over the rainbow. I played with him a lot, and sometimes he did not listen to me. When he did not understand me, I wish to speak like a dog to help him. When he was sick, I wish to speak like a dog to comfort him. I know that I could not put myself in his shoes, because he did not have any shoes. But I really wish to speak like a dog to communicate with him and to share my love with him.

Our little Lord Jesus was born in a manger. I believe that God became a human being to put Godself in our shoes. If there is God's language, to put Godself in our shoes might be for a child to lie in a manger. God came to us through the last and the lowest place. When God wants to talk with us, when God wants to help us, when God wants to comfort us, God decided not to be in heaven afar from us, but to be with us on earth, the last and the lowest place, in order to show God's love toward us.

During this Christmas season, I hope for us to put ourselves in each other's shoes. I also hope for us to be thankful for God's presence, who was born and lying in a manger in order to be with us. Then, we can have a merrier and merrier Christmas! Merry Christmas!