

Sermon Title: **“The Word Became Flesh”**

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

When: on Christmas Sunday, December 25th, 2022

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

Opening Prayer

O Lord, we welcome and accept our little Lord Jesus. Your hope, peace, joy, and love are here and now. Let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our Rock, and our Redeemer. Amen.

1. Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas! Thank you so much for coming to our Christmas Sunday Service this early Sunday! Thanks to your presence, it is a Merrier Christmas! Our little Lord Jesus was born! Our Lord Jesus Christ is with us! We have lit all five Advent Candles: two purple candles, one pink candle, the last purple candle, and the white candle. Where God is, there is hope, peace, joy, and love! Sometimes, it is hard to see, but there is always the light in the darkness!

2. Jesus Christ

We also lit two candles on the altar at the beginning of this worship service. Why two candles? They show the presence of Jesus Christ, who is 100% God and 100% human. God became a human being. The Word became flesh. God had already sent many prophets. But the great news is that God decided to send Godself to us. God decided to live with us

together. That's because to live together is the best way to show God's love and to reveal Godself to us, even though it can mean taking a risk.

3. Aristotle's Rhetoric

When Aristotle taught rhetoric, he explained three different speakers' abilities: logos, ethos, and pathos. This is called Aristotle's rhetoric triangle. Generally speaking, logos means logic, or reasoning. When the speaker has logos, the audience can say "It makes sense." Ethos means trust or authority. You can see ethos, from the speaker's characteristics, like eye contact, body language, or confidence in tone or delivery, etc. When the speaker has ethos, the audience can trust the speaker. Pathos means emotions. When the speaker has pathos, the audience can feel all kinds of emotions. The audience can laugh, smile, cry, and get angry. In other words, logos make us think. Pathos makes us feel. Ethos makes us trust. To be an effective speaker, all of these three are needed.

Among these three: logos, ethos, and pathos, which do you think can change or transform the audience? To me, it is ethos. When we trust, we can follow. Then, how can the audience see ethos from the speaker? When the speaker delivers the message in-person in front of the audience, the audience can see the speaker's ethos very well. In-person delivery conveys the ethos most and best. I believe that's why God became a human being to show God's love through ethos. God wanted to show all of God's love. Ethos is powerful in transforming the audience, but it can be risky, because the speaker can be attacked. To send messages or prophets might be safer. But God wanted to show God's love by Godself. Unfortunately,

attacking the messenger happened to our Lord Jesus Christ. But Jesus Christ loved us more than any challenges or any risks.

4. God Loves Us!

God loves us. God shows God's love through our Lord Jesus Christ. The Word became flesh. God became a human being, just like us. That's because God wants to live with us on earth in our daily lives. God wants to be with us in our joys, in our suffering, and in our normal lives. This Christmas Sunday, let us accept God's love, the holy presence of Jesus Christ in our lives.

Closing Prayer

O Lord, thank you so much for your love and grace. As you are with us, we want to be with you, Lord. Please open our minds to accept your love and yourself in our daily lives. In Jesus' name. Amen.