

Children's Message
12.30.07
1st Sunday After Christmas

Good morning.

Look what I brought with me this morning. It is a beautiful ornament that Mary Kate received this year. Do you know why I brought it? Because it reminded of one of my dreams when I was a little girl. I always thought it would be wonderful to live in one of those mini-fantasy lands- just like this- a tiny world inside a little bubble. It seemed that life would be great- just me and my family in there- all safe and cared for- no other people, no other worries.

It is interesting, when you think about it, how our world starts out very small- were just a bitty baby growing inside our mother- that's our whole world. Warm, soft, quiet- nobody to bother us, nothing to worry about. But as we grow, our world keeps getting larger and larger. We start to realize that we have a family and a home. Then we meet friends and realize that we have a neighborhood. We come to church and start to know the love of our church family. We go to school and our world gets even bigger- teachers, new friends, new faces it just goes on and on. Until we realize that we are part of a huge, wide world, with billions of people living on it.

But still, with this huge world all around us, we see ourselves as the center of our world and we often tend to ignore what is happening in other parts of our world. Sometimes we think that things that happen outside our little world don't really matter. Does it really matter to you that the mom next door ran over her daughter's tricycle? Does it really matter to you, since you're in 4th grade, that that the whole third grade caught the flu? Does it matter to you that there was a flood in India? Sometimes, I bet, some people think that God doesn't care about all people.

And believe me, we aren't the first people to ever think this way! Even back in Jesus' time people thought only about their own little world. Some people thought that Jesus only came for some people- not all people. Some people thought that Jesus' teachings were just for a select few. But the Apostle Paul writes that this isn't true! Paul said that all people need to think about all people. Paul said that God sent Jesus to earth for EVERYBODY! Paul said that Jesus is for the whole world. Jesus was sent to Africa, Japan, to Saudi Arabia, to the United States- even to Ohio.

So, our lesson today, although it seems easy-is really pretty difficult. We know that Jesus came to earth, lived and died for us- not just us, but for everyone in the whole world. That means that every person, no matter where they live, no matter what they do, no matter what they look like, know matter how they worship are God's children. And we know, that as followers of Jesus, we have to try our very best to live like Jesus and to live like Jesus wants us to. So that means we have to remember, everyday, every minute- that our world is God's world and every person on it- is part of our family- the family of God.

Reverend Hasler, will you please lead us in a prayer?