

Sermon Title: **“Emmanuel”**

Bible: **Luke 2:1-20**

When: on Christmas Eve, December 24th, 2024

Where: about 40 people (plus YouTube Live Streaming viewers) at Gilroy UMC

1. Gravity

Merry Christmas! Thank you so much for coming to our Christmas Eve Service! Thanks to your presence, it is Merry and Merrier Christmas!

I prepared a kind of an experiment in physics. I will drop off my Santa hat at this height. What do you think will happen? Does it stay here? Or does it fall down? Then, do you think that I can catch it? Let me try. It fell down and I caught it. Why did this hat fall down? Because of gravity, it fell down. Because this is not that heavy, I was able to catch it. What if I jump high toward you? Because of the gravity, I will fall down, but because I am very heavy, you might not be able to catch me. Is there anyone who has done skydiving? When we do skydiving, we will fall down from the sky because of the gravity, but we have a parachute to slow down and land on the earth safely. I hope that we should have a parachute in our lives. But many times, we just feel like falling down because of the gravity, and sometimes without parachutes. Against gravity, we want to go up, so we work harder and harder. But not all people can go up and we can fall down with reasons or without reasons. To overcome gravity is not easy. So, when we go up against gravity, we do not want to fall down. We do not want to come down.

2. Love and Emmanuel

I believe that as God created heaven and earth, God is far away from gravity. So there is no reason for God to fall down, because gravity has no power to God. But God decided to come down, not to fall down, but to become a human being. That's because God loves us. God came down with love, in a humble way, as a baby Jesus Christ. Our baby Jesus Christ came to us, as the most vulnerable one. We are weak, fragile, and just vulnerable. When we fall down, we are broken, and we lose our ways. And it feels like there is no one around us. God knows, Jesus knows our struggle, our failures, our sorrows, and our suffering, because Jesus Christ came to this gravity world, just like us.

There is a mystery of Emmanuel, God with us. Because God is with us, gravity does not have any power to us. It seems like gravity has the power of this world, and to defy gravity looks more powerful. But what God shows us through our baby Jesus Christ is that to come down with love is the power. When we fall down, let us remember that we are not alone and that the Divine one is with us at that very moment. Because God came down, we can hang in there and go up. Even when we are up, we can come down with love, just like what Jesus did, to be with others and help others. We might not be free from this gravity world, but we can live with God's love and grace here and now. Because God is with us, love is more powerful than gravity to us. During this Christmas season, let us experience and share the mystery of Emmanuel, God is with each of you. Let us have Merry and Merrier Christmas altogether!