

## **Sermon Carol Service 2023**

So, it is Christmas and we celebrate the coming of Christ into our world. I would like to pose this question – Why did he come? Did God have a reason for sending us Jesus?

The short answer to that is that God did have a reason for sending us his Son, Jesus, and it is a very good reason. It is because he wants us to have a relationship with him and we can't really do that unless we can relate to him in a real and authentic way. It's impossible to have a relationship with anyone if we are unable to identify with them. So how can he help that happen? Let me begin by telling you a story.

There was this king who ruled a peaceful land. It was a happy place and everyone thought the king was happy, but in fact he was lonely. He wanted a bride, a queen to rule beside him, someone he could love and who would love him for whom he was.

One day, as he drove through the countryside in his carriage, he saw a peasant girl. It was love at first sight. However, he wondered how he could get her to marry him. First, he thought he would simply issue a royal decree, instructing her to become his wife. But that would only mean that she obeyed him, not that she loved him.

Then he thought he would call at her home dressed in his royal robes and simply sweep her off her feet. But he realised he would never be sure whether she had married him simply for his wealth and power.

Then he decided he would dress in peasant clothes and have his carriage drop him off outside the town and then try and convince her to marry him. But this trick did not appeal to him.

So finally, he decided to go a step further. He shed his royal robes, and he went to live in her village. He became a peasant himself. He lived with her and her people. Eventually, they fell in love and were married.

Now back to God's wee problem of wanting us to relate to him. We are physical and so it is virtually impossible to relate to something we cannot see, touch and feel. So what does God do? He sends us his Son who is like him in every way except he is physical, not spiritual. In other words, he is just like us. And voila! We now know what God is really like, and it opens the way for us to have a deep and meaningful relationship with him.

That is what we should be celebrating at Christmas.

Rev Warner Wilder