Sermon Notes,

Christmas Lights, The Light of Love

Intro: Story of St Barbara

**Scripture: 1 John 3:1-3**

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

*Theme and Goal:* God **G** love by becoming human so that we can give love by

**B** like God.

**John 3:16**

16"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

**1 John 3:10**

10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

1. We **B** what we worship; our love is based on the god we **L** .

**Psalm 115:1-8**

Not to us, O Lord , not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness. 2 Why do the nations say, "Where is their God?" 3 Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him. 4 But their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men. 5 They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but they cannot see; 6 they have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but they cannot smell; 7 they have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but they cannot walk; nor can they utter a sound with their throats. 8 Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.

**Moralistic Therapeutic Deism:**

* God is **D .**
* You are accepted by your **M .**
* God exists to make you feel **G** .
* We tend to only **G** those who are “good”
1. We are **B** like God in Jesus and we **C** love like him.

**Jesus Christ**

* God here and now in the **F** .
* You are **A** by God’s grace
* God has existed before the world and the universe **R** around him
* We are called to love **E** , especially our enemies

**1 John 1:9**

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

The death of Jesus **F** us from sin; the birth of Jesus **P** us from sinning.

**Romans 5:17-19**

17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. 18 Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. 19For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

**2 Corinthians 5:14-18**

14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 16So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

**1 John 3:9-11**

9 No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. 10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother. 11 This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.