

## Christmas Vigil – Children’s Liturgy

[Gather around the Nativity scene]

Let’s talk about Christmas presents. I think there are two kinds of Christmas presents: the kind you can play with or use right away, and the kind that you have to wait to use or play with.

Who can give me an example of a Christmas present you can use or play with right away?

What’s an example of a Christmas present that you have to wait to use or play with?

Imagine who wanted really badly to have a baby sister. She really wanted to play with her and teach her things like how to color and stay within the lines, and how to dress up and that sort of thing.

Sometimes boys want little brothers and they want to play with them and show them how to do stuff like play video games and throw a baseball.

One year the little girl got what she wanted. Her mom had a baby and it was right about Christmastime.

The little girl thought of her little sister as a beautiful Christmas present.

Now, is a baby sister the kind of Christmas present that you can play with right away? Or is she more like a Christmas present that you have to wait to play with?

Is Jesus a Christmas present?

Imagine that you lived in Jesus’ day. Let’s say you lived in the same town with him, in Nazareth. Let’s say you lived down the street from him and he was actually in your class.

How do you think that would be?

Could you count on Jesus to be a friend to you? A good friend?

Do you think he would be willing to show you how to do stuff if you were having trouble?

Do you think he would ever be mean to you, or do things that weren’t right?

Would you look forward to seeing him when you went to school each day?

Is he a present that we have to wait to make use of, or can we do something with him right away?

I think he’s both.

He’s already present to us, right?

And, he will stay with us in our hearts all along the way, all through our lives.

What about you? Are you a present to anybody?

Are you the kind of present that people have to wait to use, or can you be a present to them right now? Can you be both?

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How would you like to be a present to your friends and classmates at school, your parents and brothers and sisters at home? Or to other people you know.

God sent his Son Jesus to us as a baby so that he would know what it’s like to live in this world from the very beginning.

And Jesus was always a present to those around him.

He thinks of us as his brothers and sisters and shows us how we can be presents, too. It doesn’t matter whether we are old or young, boy or girl. He lives in each of our hearts ready to help us and show us the way to being the best presents we can be, now at Christmastime and every other day, too.