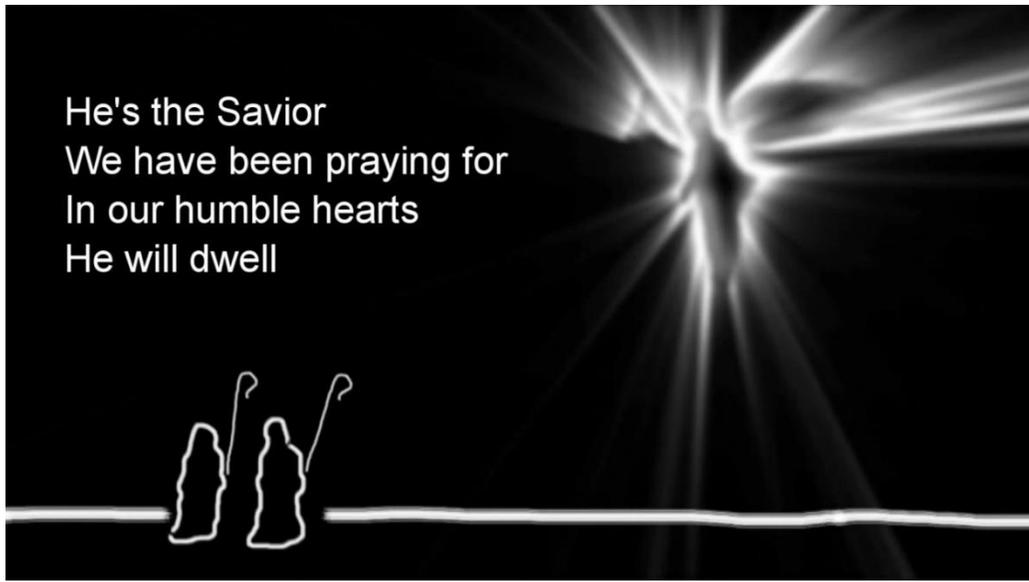


**Sunday  
December 6, 2020**



### *God Is With Us*

Daddy where does Jesus live?" Ben asked. He was about 4 years old; we were playing catch in the front yard. I stumbled over his surprising question, "Um... Ah... well... Jesus lives in heaven... But... Umm... His spirit is everywhere too... Soooo... Jesus kinda lives here too." With that awkward answer behind me, I was caught off-guard by his second question, "Dad, can Jesus live in my heart?" This wonderful, amazing question turned my finely tuned theological mind to mush, but somehow the words came. I said something like this, "Yes Ben, Jesus is everywhere but he really wants your heart to be his home." So, we talked and prayed for Jesus to live in his heart.

That ordinary spring afternoon was transformed into a multigenerational encounter with God. That day my 4-year-old took his first spiritual step. What a gift! Like the best of gifts this one caught me by surprise. I can just see the "great cloud of witnesses" in heaven shouting "Surprise!" on that afternoon. Like most surprise gifts, this one amazed and intrigued me. Where had my 4-year-old heard about Jesus living in someone's heart? Not from us! Salvation wasn't exactly a hot topic around the Teague dinner table.

The question hounded me for days, until I discovered that, Linda, our church nursery worker had begun doing story time with a children's Bible. Somewhere along the way they discussed where Jesus lives. And now you know the rest of the story. Linda was a gift to Ben. She shared her gifts with him. She planted a seed of faith which has eternally and positively influenced his life. Paula and I owe Linda (and God of course) more than we could ever repay. As we celebrate the incarnational gift of Jesus, God born in the flesh this Christmas season, may we become gifts to younger generations. May you extravagantly share your life with children in our church and community, so that this largely unchurched generation will also share the greatest gift of all, life with Christ!

*Hank Teague*

Reprinted from the 2011 Monumental Advent Devotional.