

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

28.12. 2025

Reflecting, yet looking ahead

The last Sunday of the year invites us to stand still between what has been and what is yet to come. The gifts have been shared, the food eaten, and already many are planning for the next Christmas. Yet Christmas reminds us that God chose to enter time quietly with His presence. A child lying in a manger signals that God is not distant from our ordinary days, our unfinished plans, or our weary reflections at year's end.

As the calendar closes, we naturally review our gains and losses, our faithfulness and our failures. For some, 2025 will have been a better year, whilst for others it will be a bitter year to remember.

Christmas reframes this moment. God does not wait for a new year to begin again with us. In Christ, renewal has already begun. The light that shone in Bethlehem continues to shine into every circumference we face.

This Sunday is not merely about ending the year well, but it's about trusting that Emmanuel, God with us, remains present beyond. God with us exceeds the celebrations, the coming resolutions, and the uncertainties of life. The shepherds returned to their fields, the wise men went home by another route, and life resumed, but nothing was truly the same for any of those who witnessed the baby Jesus personally.

As we step towards a new year, we do so not alone, but accompanied. The same God who entered the world in vulnerability walks with us into the unknown. That is the enduring gift of Christmas: hope grounded not

in circumstances, but in God's faithful presence, yesterday, today, and into the year ahead.

Lamentations 3:22-23 states, 22 Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail.

23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Embrace the coming year knowing that God who was faithful in 2025 will continue to be so throughout 2026.
