

Christmas Midnight Mass

The last Christmas before we came to Bahamas we were putting up the tree –
Christmas Angel – smudged cheek, kind of crooked – time for a new angel?
But we kept it (Our Angel)

Tradition

We all have them

Platters of Christmas cookies (we can't eat) for company

Family gatherings (2 sisters)

No dinner

Just appetizers and eat all day!

Now while we have all the busy-ness of the day

We really do know the reason for Christmas

The reason for the season is Jesus – and we celebrate that

- Annunciation
- Bethlehem
- Swaddling clothes and the manger
- Angels singing to the shepherds
 - We know all that - But here's something we tend to miss

Christmas really isn't such a big deal

What's really important is EASTER

Without EASTER Jesus is just another prophet

Jesus rose from the dead

Jesus defeated death, defeated satan

And through Jesus we have salvation

- It's the message of Titus
We don't hear Titus that often – only 3 chapters long (only 1 sentence).

Titus says that the grace of God appeared to save ALL

I don't care who you are, what you've done, how many times you did it – you can be FREE

Jesus took your sin

It was nailed on the cross with Jesus

We are redeemed

The reason Jesus comes at Christmas is EASTER

We are redeemed

Titus says "The grace of God has appeared, saving ALL"

"Our savior Jesus Christ gave himself for us to deliver us"

"To cleanse, for Himself, a people as His own"

He is talking about YOU and about ME

We rejoice at Christmas, because Jesus is born.

We rejoice at Christmas, because Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

We rejoice at Christmas because Titus is right

Jesus has delivered us

Jesus has claimed a people as His own – and here we are.

If you're not sure if you're part of that family my email address is on the front cover of the bulletin

Jesus is born this day to bring salvation to creation – to each one of us – let us rejoice and be glad!