

OASIS Groups not meeting again until the New Year	FoodBank Needs are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Fruit Juice/ Squash •Shampoo •Crisps/Savoury Snacks •Sweets •Size 6 Nappies •Whole Milk UHT •Toothpaste 	Casa Mea Children If you would like to contribute towards Christmas presents for the children please either give to the office or Emma, clearly marked Casa Mea. We are trying to raise £20 per child (£140 total)
Food for Thought not meeting again until the New Year		
Men's Prayer Group Prayer meeting for men every Tuesday morning at 7am for 45 minutes in the prayer room.		
Christmas Services Christmas Eve Christmas by Candlelight 4.30pm for mulled drink and Christmas treats - 5pm Service Christmas Day Celebration 10.30-11.15	Are you on your own on Christmas Day? If you are alone or know of someone else (connected to Emmanuel) and/who would like to be with others on Christmas day for lunch and a few hours of company contact Sue . Depending on how many respond we can arrange this in the church lounge or placed in individual homes. We would need to know by TODAY! to know how many to cater for.	

10.30am **Coming together to praise, learn and encourage.**
Main Door Amy Growcott-Smith
Inner Door David & Angie Pascoe
Easy Worship Becky Brown
Teas & Coffees Nigel & Kate Bird

Sunday 15th December 2019

10.30am Coming together to praise, learn and encourage.

A warm welcome to you all. We would love to get to know each other better, so please introduce yourself.

11am Children and youth groups leave

Nippers: Pre-school 2+

Buzz: Reception, school years 1-6

Salt: School years 7-13

12.30 **Community Roast Christmas Dinner**

Vegetarian, Vegan and Gluten Free will be catered for

NEXT SUNDAY
10.30am

All Age
Family Christmas
Celebration

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN A HOUSEGROUP?

Email housegroups@emmanuelbaptist.co.uk and one of our Housegroup co-ordinators will put you in touch with a group.

WOULD YOU LIKE US TO PRAY FOR YOU?

Please come and ask the service leader and they will find one of our prayer team to pray with you.

Sermon outline notes: Philippians 2 : 7 He made himself nothing

Introduction

Jesus Christ made himself nothing. There is something troubling about that idea. Maybe it is the word 'nothing'. There is an uneasy combination of emptiness and violence about the word nothing, a dreadful stripping away of what is. There is nothing good about nothing!

1) **MADE himself nothing**

The word 'made' implies wilful action. Jesus deliberately stripped himself of everything

- The unlimited God became limited man
Jesus the Word of God became flesh
- Jesus had to face the cross and when he died he was abandoned, broken, forsaken.
- From sinless to sin stained—he who knew no sin became sin for us.

2) **The divine logic**

Jesus was not pushed, threatened or coerced nor was his descent an accidental fall—it was the result of an unwavering wilful commitment to logic. He knowingly and actively embraced a life of giving, serving, losing and dying knowing that as painful as it sometimes feels, descending is the only way to greatness!

The story of the God who voluntarily demoted himself is above all else, a LOVE STORY.

3) **An example to follow!**

We, his followers and the recipients of his love, are called do the same. Love motivated Jesus and that is what is to motivate us. However the 'descent' love requires does not just happen—each of us must make active and often costly choices.

Life to the full?

"I spent most of my life trying to arrange circumstances, carefully and conservatively so I could live comfortably, safely with few surprises and minimal inconveniences. Now I'm learning that loving isn't always comfortable. Sometimes it leads me down unexpected turns and gets terribly inconvenient. But it's a much more exciting, fulfilling way to life. I never again want to get stuck in the comfort zone!"

Yet isn't that where most people, even many sincere Christians, live their day to day lives? Don't we tend to focus on Bible passages that 'guarantee' safety, security, peace, victory and reward. Don't we tend to overlook or soften those passages that jeopardise or threaten our comfort. The verses that pierce and cut and challenge us to 'downward mobility' seldom make plaques on the wall.

Points to Ponder

- 1) Share reactions to the sermon. Was anything said with which you disagreed? Why?
- 2) What did you think of the quote beginning 'I spent most of my life' and ending 'I never again want to get stuck in the comfort zone.'
- 3) "We need to realise that the kind of life 'to the full' that Jesus promised his followers in John 10 : 10 is not found along the upward path to the comfort zone, but along the downward path towards challenge, tough choices, painful growth, and obedience." discuss

NOTES