Sermon: **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** (John 1.1)

Only Matthew and Luke tell the Christmas story. Mark has no mention.
John has a reflective look. Many believe John was written towards the end of 1st century, well after Jesus’ birth, life & death. By that time Matthew & Luke were probably known to author, so why rewrite the Christmas story?

Instead John tries to make sense of it. To us the sense he makes may not hit the mark. It is based on contemporary Greek philosophy: God cannot make direct contact with creation as it will mar his purity, so needs an intermediary. Angels, Wisdom, Logos for some were seen as such [egs Abraham at Mamre (Gen 18), Jacob’s dream at Bethel (Gen 28); Prov 3.19, 8.22; Genesis creation story where God speaks]. John used Logos = Word/Reason. For John, one more step – Logos was no mere intermediary, but God, somehow. So John says that God has come at Christmas and spoken in Jesus.

This task of making sense of Christmas that John did, we all need to do.

Sometimes folk have used a whole variety of Nativity story updates – spaceman ones, social angst ones (including vagrants, homeless, those in poverty), ones with punk rockers, people with AIDS, refugees, coloured folk, etc. These try to put Christmas into our context. Are they simply gimmickry?

More seriously, preachers’ sermons try to say that Jesus is God, but if so, how come? Or is Jesus just a good man?

And what did Jesus come for? Many explanations have been given relating to reconciling our relationship with creation, each other and God. We all have our take.

It is not that anything goes, but that God comes to us in our need, deals with us as suits each one.

After Christmas service someone rebuked me for not mentioning forgiveness which leads to eternal life.

There is no one answer. For some we need comfort, others need a challenge, a fresh start, forgiveness. We each daily need to interpret the Christmas story for ourselves and all those whom we meet. May God help us in this task.