

## Christmas Eve Service 2024

### Christmas Presence

Segway from Dance: Born This Day, Yes, 2000 year ago, but still able to be born in our hearts today! Glad all of you are with us to celebrate the Reason for Christmas, it's celebrating not just the Christmas Presents that stay waiting for us open under your trees, but the real Christmas Presence, and that's Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us, that God is awaiting for us to make room for, on this Christmas eve to receive him into our hearts.

In the weeks leading up to today, we've been talking about the good news of Jesus prophesized 700 years before his coming. And this is the prophesy. **(Keynote)**

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity . . . (Isaiah 9:6 – 7 NLT)

And on this Christmas Eve, I'll talk about Jesus being our Prince of Peace and that His government and peace will never end! BUT, if you watch world news, you know there isn't world peace. War is going on all over the world and rumors of possible wars are happening on all fronts. And for some of us, on the personal front, all is not at peace.

This is how the Hawaii Pidgin bible tell da prophesy of Isaiah, **(Keynote)**

Cuz one bebe goin born fo us guys, One boy dat God give us. Da govmen goin be his kuleana. Dis da name peopo goin give him: "Da Awesome One Dat show us da bestes tings fo do. Da God dat get all da powa. Da Faddah dat stay foeva. Da Leada dat make us come so notting bodda us." He goin come da leada Fo da govmen, An he goin make eryting come So notting bodda nobody (DGASB)

Brah, if us guys honest, something bodda us all da time. Some of you may be bodded right now. “Hurry up, I like go home, I hungry, get so much traffic out dea just fo come hea!” Dass why is message fo you! But nobody lidat!

And you like know what the problem is? We are control freaks. We like take charge a eryting, manage erything, fix eryting, control everything, and we try to control everything around us, and we no can even control ourselves. Sorry, but the problem is, we Hard Head, stubborn, prideful. Tell the person next to you, no be Hard Head. And when we no can fix our pain and problems, we come all **bodda inside**.

We bodda bout our future, our work, our health, our relationships and we try to take control of those things. And some stuff we can, but others, we can’t even with our best efforts and dass what stresses us out and boddas us inside. Dass wat Jesus came for. He came to come close to us, so close that he wants his spirit to live inside us so that he can take control of those things that bodda us.

For you bible buffs, Do you know that the first person that the baby Jesus met/encountered outside his parents? It’s this guy named Simeon. Try lissen real good to what he experienced in Jesus’ presence? You ready fo watch the encounter. I figure you heard this story in English, but we go watch um in our language. . .

**(KEYNOTE)** Show Video: Three minutes

You remember what Simeon tell about Jesus? “You da one in Charge,. . . and he tells God “now you can let me mahke. **Notting goin bodda** me cuz I see wat you wen do fo take me outa da bad kine stuff we stay do”

Simeon declared, Jesus, you da one in charge. You the one I let lead, control, manage my life, take charge! We are control freaks, trying to take charge of

everything in our lives. And I'm not saying no be responsible, I'm saying there are things we can't manage on our own strength. And God allows these stuff to happen that bodda us to da max. It's pain and pain is not something bad? It's normal, maybe we cause it ourselves, but pain is the universal attention getter.

And we don't manage our pains well. And some of us experience real physical pains: Migranes, kidney stones, childbirth (no man can understand), severe burns, back problems,

And when I ask people to share their defining moment, something that happened that changed them, and turned them to God, almost everyone tells of a pain story. Do you know of people that turned to God cuz everything was going good for them?

And the most sore pain is not necessarily the physical pain, but it's the relational and emotional pains we experience: Pains/fearing of the future (can't enjoy the present), worry/anxiety, feeling alone/not feeling loved back, being betrayed, beefing it out with your spouse/kids, loss or losing a loved one (dass painful), feeling alone, or even having debilitating condition or illness.

We can dull the pain (work harder, party harder, try to avoid it, make like not there, but the pain will scream at us to get our attention.

Has God used your pains to turn you to God? Raise your hands. For the rest of you, you need the ministry called De-nial, and it's not the river in Egypt. Dass Da Nile.

(Illustration). We are like toddlers who start walking, they are so excited to explore their worlds when they begin walking and they just go all over the place, with daddy and mommy walking right behind them in case they get themselves in trouble or fall. And then that toddler hits their head, falls hard, thinks they got lost, what do

they do? Cry and cry out “Mommy, Daddy? And they raise their hands up? That’s a picture of us. And what happens a good daddy would pick the toddler up and comfort him/her. You think a good daddy would say, “good fo you”. Cry some moa!” Of course not! And that’s what our father God does to us. We think he far away, but he’s been there all the time. We just have thought he’s not there.

And when we fall, feel all bodda inside, the best thing you can do is reach out to God and turn to him.

And the bestest Christmas present you can ever have is to encounter the Prince of Peace. Da leada dat goin make um so notting bodda you. He may take the pain away, or me may just fill you with his comforting spirit to carry you through your pain and hard times. He promises to be close to you, so close that his spirit will be in you. That’s what Christmas is all about, it’s Emmanuel. God with us, or God who came near to us, or even mo betta, God who comes inside us fo make house in our hearts. Dass the Christmas message.

How many of you need to experience that kine peace, where he come oua leada fo make um so notting bodda us in da midst of our pains? Raise your hands!

Isaiah the prophet speaks one promise from God. **(Keynote)**

Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand (Isaiah 41:10 NLT)

So no sked, Cuz you guys da one I stay wit. No come bum out, Cuz I yoa God. I make you guys come strong inside. Mo den dat, I help you guys. I no let you guys fall down! Az cuz I get plenny powa Fo do da right ting fo you guys (DGASB). **(Keynote)**

He no goin let you guys fall down.

Segway with bringing up the prop, a wrapped a present. We are so enamored, drawn to the glitter and glamour of Christmas. We wrap our gifts in nice ribbons and wrapping paper all to hide the real treasure of what's inside. And we all look forward to opening it up because it represents the care and love of the giver. But, most of those presents we get, especially for our kids, the luster won't last, it's temporary happiness. But the gift wrapped fo us, the real gift of Christmas, is not wrapped in pretty paper, tied nicely with fancy ribbon. But one wrapped and ready unlike any other gift you could ever receive. Why? It won't lose it's luster, it will grow on you, better said you will grow more because of it. It's a gift unwrapped for you to receive. **(Call the worship team back on stage)**

Now what would happen if I gave you a gift and you received it and you never opened it up, you just kept it unwrapped. Wouldn't that be a disconnect, especially if it was given from me, someone so important, right? And how would that giver feel? Especially if that gift was a special one. Awh, a little sad. But the giver no going force you fo open the gift. I no goin tell, "eh, you betta open um" you ungrateful buggah you!" **(Pad the intro to the song)**.

You been offered an amazing gift from someone way more important than me, it's from our Father God. And you just gotta open um. The best Christmas present you can ever open.

Listen to this song. "Born to us a savior, who is Christ the Lord. Open up your heart, come receive the one is the gift only God can give.

Jesus speaks to a church and says this. "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends (Revelation 3:19 – 20 NLT).

He's awaiting for us to open the gift and on this Christmas eve, may you open up the greatest gift ever given to receive the best gift you can ever experience, his very presence, given from the greatest gift giver ever.

You may tell Pastor, I gotta see first fo me believe, I tell you, in God's world, believe first and you watch you, you'll see fo real kine, his presence working in your life. You'll experience a marked change in your life. You still will experience the pains of this life, but you'll find peace in his presence.

Can we all stand to respond to allow me to invite your to open your hearts to receive this gift. **Pray (Choir return to risers)**. If God has been speaking to you, don't be indifferent, no make like ainokea! Cuz God cares so much fo you and wants you to receive and open your hearts to Him. Raise your hands, and our prayer team and pastoral staff will be the ones seeing who makes that decision.

If you made that decision to receive the greatest gift of his presence, we wanna celebrate and welcome you into God's ohana. We have a bible and some follow up steps for you to learn about his presence. Join us next year as we continue to experience his presence. Let's go out singing.

OG Discussion Qs:

1. What was highlighted to you through the Christmas Eve message?
2. God promises Jesus to be our Prince of Peace, Da One who make goin make eryting come so notting bodda nobody. What are you facing or have faced that you need or needed Jesus to be your Prince of Peace?
3. Have you opened up your heart to receive his presence? If so, how has the gift of his presence transformed you? If you haven't opened this gift yet, what's holding you back from doing so?