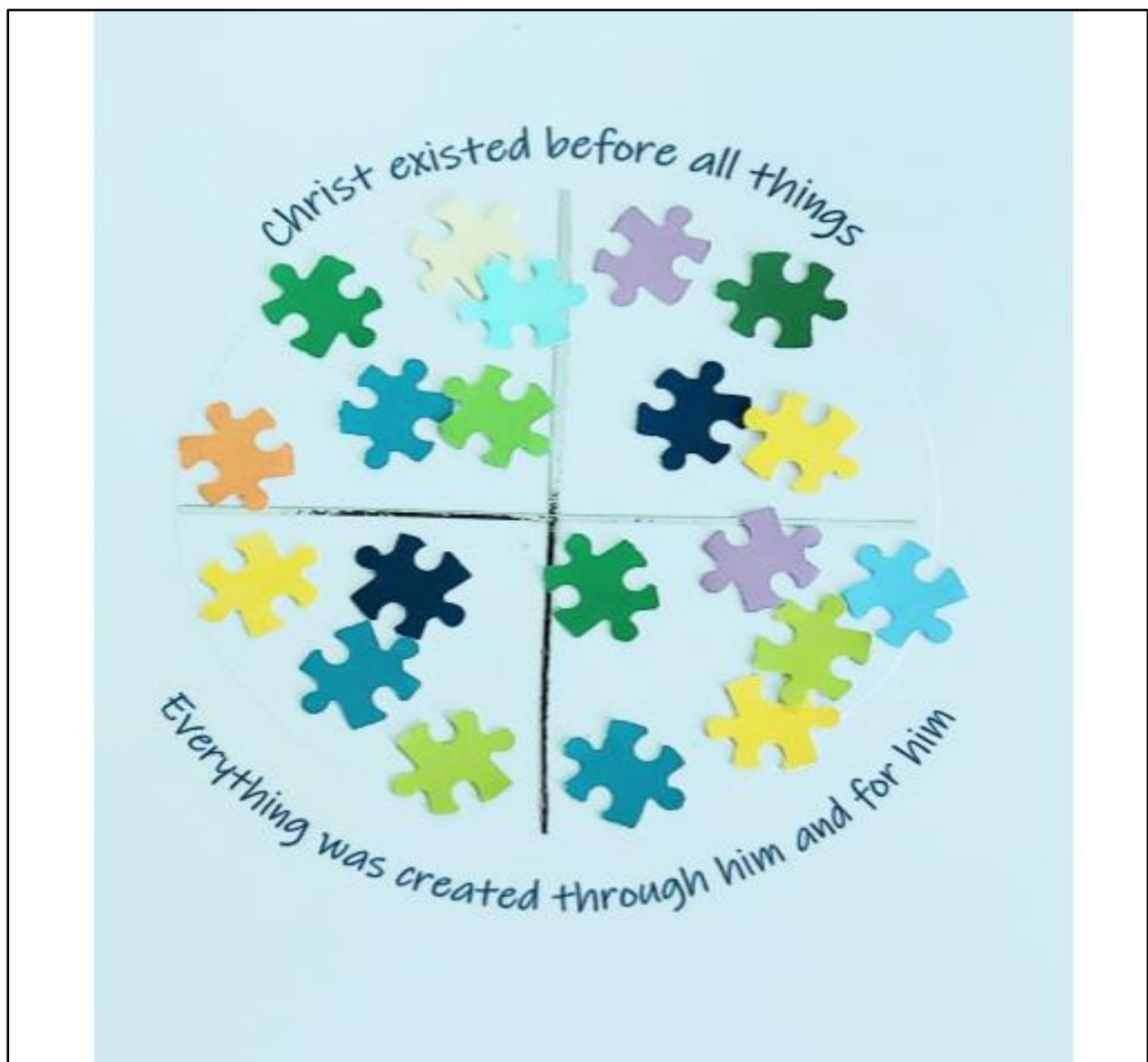


When heaven cracks open... beyond Christmas
Glynde - Children's message 8 Jan 2023

Well, Christmas is over. How many people still have Christmas decorations up?

Not many, and that makes sense because now we are officially in the church season of Epiphany. But I want to share something about Christmas and I can't wait until the end of the year!

How many people received or gave some Christmas cards? We got a few cards this year, and I have now put them away. But I thought I would share one with you.... I didn't actually get this card, but it is one made by an artist that one of my friends was given, and I thought it was so good I took a photograph of it. This is what it looked like on the outside: a jumble of jigsaw pieces with the words: Christ existed before all things. Everything was created through him and for him.



And this is what was on the inside:



What has happened to the jumble of jigsaw pieces?
And what do the words say?

And you know, that is what I think we need to think about. We need to think about how Jesus came into the world for a purpose, and to make a jumble of things work out for God's plan. As we move away from Christmas, we start to focus not on the birth of Jesus, but on who Jesus is.

And that is something very important that is revealed in our Bible reading for today.

In our Bible reading that we had today, the story of Jesus' baptism we are told that the heavens opened and God told Jesus that he was his son and that he was proud of him.

Do you ever think about when the heavens open and God comes down to earth? Well that's the challenge for today. It happened for Jesus, and it is something that still happens today

I have prepared an activity sheet for today which gives you something to colour and a space to write some things about heaven opening for Jesus and when it opens for you.

The message later on will give you some clues to filling in the activity sheet, but you might be able to think of other times when heaven opens for you as well.

As followers of Jesus, we need to share this good news. Our song today picks up how we can share this by letting our little lights shine for Jesus.

Song: This little light of mine (https://youtu.be/_8fUumdusaw)

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for opening heaven to bless Jesus at his baptism and for giving him a plan and purpose for his time on earth. Thank you for blessing us and keeping us in your care. In Jesus' name, Amen.