

Children's sermon: December 21, 2008

"Christmas in a turtle world"

Do you believe in magic???

Fred ... the big green turtle ... wants and needs a little magic.

It's tough being a turtle ... in Orland Park ...

You know where you spend your time at Christmas? ----- underground, in the mud ... with worms and other slimy creatures.

Fred's wish? ----- I just want to be hugged by someone brown-and-furry this Christmas!!

It's so good to be hugged, isn't it????

Makes you feel warm inside.

Hugs remind us of God ----- the warmth, the caring, the goodness.

Fred wants to believe in Santa Claus ... he wants to see Santa come down the chimney ...

he wants to wake up and see presents under the tree.

But when you are a frog ... in the Midwest ... well, it doesn't happen.

Look ---- for Fred the turtle ... SANTA IS ALL LOCKED UP IN A BOTTLE ...

Santa's spirit never seems to come out and give Fred a warm feeling.

His sister tries to cheer him up.

People bring "little balls of goodness" to Fred nothing ever gets Fred "in the spirit."

The real magic of Christmas ... well, it's Jesus.

A child. God's love.

It's a spiritual kind-of magic!!

How about a little fun magic for Fred? ...he needs it.

Close your eyes.

Think of good ol' Santa.

Make a wish for Fred.

Brown? Furry? A reminder of God's warmth?

Let's see what's behind the altar this morning.

Buckets ... big buckets ...

And inside? ----- lots of brown-furry creatures.

One for Fred the turtle ... who gets his Christmas wish.

And ... one for each of you.

It's good to see ----- THE MAGIC IS BACK!!