

The background of the top section is a dark brown gradient. On the left, there is a lit candle with a flame. To its right is a white silhouette of a church steeple with a cross on top. The title 'The Gift of a Self-Emptying God' is written in a white, elegant script font across the top left.

The Gift of a Self-Emptying God

SERMON NOTES NOVEMBER 3, 2024

All Saints Sunday

Scripture: Ephesians 3:1-12

EPHESIANS 3:1-12 (THE MESSAGE)

3 The mystery is that people who have never heard of God and those who have heard of him all their lives (what I've been calling outsiders and insiders) stand on the same ground before God. They get the same offer, same help, same promises in Christ Jesus. The Message is accessible and welcoming to everyone, across the board.

7-8 This is my life work: helping people understand and respond to this Message. It came as a sheer gift to me, a real surprise, God handling all the details. When it came to presenting the Message to people who had no background in God's way, I was the least qualified of any of the available Christians. God saw to it that I was equipped, but you can be sure that it had nothing to do with my natural abilities.

8-10 And so here I am, preaching and writing about things that are way over my head, the inexhaustible riches and generosity of Christ. My task is to bring out in the open and make plain what God, who created all this in the first place, has been doing in secret and behind the scenes all along. Through followers of Jesus like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!

11-13 All this is proceeding along lines planned all along by God and then executed in Christ Jesus. When we trust in him, we're free to say whatever needs to be said, bold to go wherever we need to go.

According to Paul, who are saints?

How do you define God's grace?"

How are we living and making known God's extraordinary gift in Jesus Christ?