



Pastor Scott Archer 11.30.2014\*  
Central Congregational Church  
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"  
www.ccclamesa.com

### In the Beginning...

Series: Cosmic Christmas – Advent 2014  
John 1:1-3

#### Gospel Beginnings...

- ❖ Mark begins with John the Baptist (Mk. 1:1-8).
- ❖ Matthew begins with Abraham (Mt. 1:1-17).
- ❖ Luke begins with Adam (Luke 3:21-38).
- ❖ John begins with the creation of the cosmos.

*Genesis 1:1–2 (NIV) — 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

*John 1:1–3 (NIV) — 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.*

#### Before and Beyond the Manger...

- ❖ Christ exists eternally; before Christmas and creation.

*Colossians 1:15–20 (NIV) — 15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together... 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*

*Hebrews 1:3–4 (NIV) — 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. 4 So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.*

- ❖ Christmas (and Easter) are not God's "Plan 'B'."

*Revelation 13:8 (NIV) — 8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.*

*1 Peter 1:18–20 (NIV) — 18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.*

- ❖ Christmas, Easter and the second Advent of Christ are the culmination of God's cosmic plan from before time.

*Revelation 22:12–13 (NIV) — 12 "Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.*

**Central Thought:** The Christ of Christmas is creator of the Cosmos and soon coming king, and thus worthy of my complete confidence!

**Central Question:** Have you opened your heart in faith to the true Christ of Christmas and Creation?