

Christmas Eve Festival Worship



Company's Coming: Welcoming the Guest

Calvary Lutheran Church
9807 Church Road + Dallas, TX + 75238
214-348-5567

December 24, 2020 3:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 24, 2020

FESTIVAL WORSHIP

WELCOME TO CALVARY

Good evening and Merry Christmas to you! We extend a warm welcome to all our members, guests, and visitors to Christmas Eve Festival Worship this evening.

“Glory to God in the highest!” The expression of praise by the heavenly host on the night when Jesus was born into our world has echoed through the ages. As we gather for this most special eve, we find joy in repeating the words of God’s heavenly messengers. The angels proclaimed a message of peace and good will, a word from God that was appearing in the Word made flesh – the baby Jesus born to bring the light of redemption to a people on earth lost in darkness. **“Gloria in excelsis Deo!”** Whether we are singing in English or Latin or some other language, the message of the words is what matters. We worship our Lord and rejoice in the glory of Christmas! **“Joy to the world, the Lord is come!”**

We now spend twelve days praising God the Father for the gift of his Incarnate Son. The festival of Christmas culminates with the Epiphany of our Lord on Wednesday, January 6, 2021.

LARGE PRINT SERVICE FOLDERS

Large print service folders of this evening’s worship are available in the entry area. If you need assistance locating one, please ask an usher for help.

OUR FACILITIES

Our restrooms are in the narthex toward the back right as you exit the sanctuary. The members of Calvary believe that families should be encouraged to worship together. If your young child needs to be quieted, we have audio/video available in the narthex and audio in the restrooms. If you need anything during the service, please feel free to ask an usher.

Christmas Eve 2020

“Welcoming the Guest”

OPENING HYMN

42 – Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr.; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, St. Louis, 1941.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing his love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.</p> <p>2 See how God, for us providing,
Gave his Son and life abiding;
He our weary steps is guiding
From earth’s woe to heav’nly joy.</p> | <p>3 Christ, from heav’n to us descending
And in love our race befriending,
In our need his help extending,
Saved us from the wily foe.</p> <p>4 Jacob’s Star in all its splendor
Beams with comfort sweet and tender,
Forcing Satan to surrender,
Breaking all the pow’rs of hell.</p> <p>5 Gracious Child, we pray you, hear us;
From your lowly manger cheer us.
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join th’ angelic choir.</p> |
|---|---|

INVOCATION

Stand

- M In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen

A DIALOGUE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE *(in the words of John and Isaiah)*

- M The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.
C **Oh, come, let us worship him.**
- M The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
C **The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.**
- M On those living in the land of the shadow of death light has dawned.
C **We have seen Christ’s glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

M For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
C **In him was life, and that life was the light of men.**

M He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
C **From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.**

M Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Be seated

LESSONS AND CAROLS

FIRST LESSON... The Prophecy

Isaiah 11:1-11

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior

ISAIAH 11:1 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of power,
the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD -
³and he will delight in the fear of the LORD .

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
⁴but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.
⁵Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

⁶The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.

⁷The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,

and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

⁸The infant will play near the hole of the cobra,
and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest.

⁹They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious. ¹¹In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the remnant that is left of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the sea.

M The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN

47 (1,2, and 4) – Behold a Branch Is Growing

Text: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, Köln, 1599, abr.; tr. composite.

- 1 Behold, a Branch is growing Of loveliest form and grace,
As prophets sang, foreknowing; It springs from Jesse's race
And bears one little flow'r In midst of coldest winter,
At deepest midnight hour.**
- 2 Isaiah had foretold it In words of promise sure,
And Mary's arms enfold it, A virgin meek and pure.
Through God's eternal will This child to her is given
At midnight calm and still.**
- 4 This flow'r, so small and tender, With fragrance fills the air;
His brightness ends the darkness That kept the earth in fear.
True God and yet true man, He came to save his people
From earth's dark night of sin.**

SECOND LESSON... The Preparation

Luke 1:5-17

The angels announce the coming of Jesus' forerunner, John the Baptist

LUKE 1:5 In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly. ⁷But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years.

⁸Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

¹¹Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. ¹⁴He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. ¹⁶Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. ¹⁷And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous--to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

M The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN

15 (1-3) – Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Text: Latin hymn, c. 6th century, abr., alt.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-78, alt.

- 1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding; "Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness; You are children of the day."**
- 2 Lo, the Lamb, so long-expected, Comes with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, One and all, to be forgiv'n,**
- 3 That, when next he comes with glory And the world is wrapped in fear,
He may shield us with his mercy And with words of love draw near.**

THIRD LESSON... The Preparation

Luke 1:26-38

The angel announces the birth of Jesus

LUKE 1:26⁷In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷For nothing is impossible with God."

³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

RESPONSORY

M The Word of the Lord!

C **Thanks be to God!**

QUARTET

Praise We the Lord This Day (1,2,4,6)

- 1. Praise we the Lord this day,
This day so long foretold,
Whose promise shone with cheering ray
On waiting saints of old.*
- 2. The prophet gave the sign
For faithful folk to read:
A virgin, born of David's line,
Shall bear the promised seed.*

- 4. She meekly bowed her head
To hear the gracious word:
Hail, Mary, pure and lowly maid,
The favored of the Lord.*
- 6. Jesus, the Virgin's Son,
We praise Thee and adore,
Who art with God the Father One
And Spirit evermore.*

FOURTH LESSON... The Birth

Luke 2:1-7

The birth of Jesus

LUKE 2:1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to his own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

RESPONSORY

M The Word of the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

HYMN

65 (1,2,4) O Little Town of Bethlehem

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-93, abr., alt.

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep And dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears Of all the years Are met in thee tonight.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, The angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing To God the King And peace to all the earth.
- 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin And enter in; Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, Abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

SOLO

Still, Still, Still

Text: Austrian carol, Trans. George K. Evans

*Still, still, still, the night is calm and still.
The Christ-child in his crib lies sleeping,
angels round him watch are keeping.
Still, still, still: the night is calm and still.*

*Sleep, sleep, sleep: sweet Jesus, softly sleep,
while Mary sings and gently holds you,
safely in her arms enfolds you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep: sweet Jesus softly sleep.*

*Joy, joy, joy; glad tidings of great joy!
For through God's holy incarnation
Christ is born for our salvation.
Joy, joy, joy; glad tidings of great joy!*

FIFTH LESSON... The Birth

Luke 2:8-14

The birth of Jesus announced to shepherds

LUKE 2:8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

RESPONSORY

M The Word of the Lord!
C **Thanks be to God!**

CHOIR

Mary, Joseph, Huddle Here

Joseph Robinson and Sam Batt Owens; Copyright 1996 MorningStar Music Publishers

*Mary, Joseph, huddle here, Starburst shines both bright and clear.
Child who brings delight and fear,
Glory in the highest!*

*Gently touch this tiny face, Newborn bearing ageless grace,
Cosmic wonder, lowly place,
Glory in the highest!*

*Serf and shepherd share the sight glistening in this holy night,
From crude barn such holy light,
Glory in the highest!*

*All toward manger gently bending, Angel choir and cow's voice blending,
God to us a baby sending.
Glory in the highest!*

HYMN

63 (1,2) – Angels We Have Heard on High

Text: Nouveau recueil de cantiques, 1855; tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, London, 1862, alt.

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

SIXTH LESSON... The Birth

Luke 2:15-20

The shepherds come and see... and go and tell

LUKE 2:15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

RESPONSORY

M The Word of the Lord!
C Thanks be to God!

HYMN

67 – What Child Is This

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, alt.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 What child is this who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet With anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the Son of Mary!</p> | <p>2 Why lies he in such mean estate
Where oxen now are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through;
The cross he'll bear for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the Son of Mary!</p> |
| <p>3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings Salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high;
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the Son of Mary!</p> | |

HYMN

54 – Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008. © 1987 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

- 1 Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel’s word,
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;
But there is room and welcome there for me,
But there is room and welcome there for me.**
- 2 In that unlikely place I find him as they said:
Sweet newborn Babe, how frail! and in a manger bed,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.**
- 3 How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.**
- 4 Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned
Its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned,
To die, to live, and not alone for me,
To die, to live, and not alone for me?**

CHRISTMAS EVE MEDITATION

Luke 2:16

Company’s Coming... Welcoming The Guest

Meditation notes:

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT and MUSICAL OFFERTORY

Offerings can be placed in the plate near the entrance to the sanctuary or one can give online or with our GivePlus app. Please “check in” online. The “Connection Card” tab is on the bottom of any page of our website: calvarydallas.org.

HYMN

60 – Silent Night

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848, abr.; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85.

- 1 Silent night! Holy night!**
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night! Holy night!**
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night! Holy night!**
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

SEVENTH LESSON... The Revelation

Matthew 2:1–12

Wisemen... Gentiles... worship Jesus

MATTHEW 2:1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

““But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.””

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

RESPONSORY

M The Word of the Lord!
C Thanks be to God!

HYMN

92 (1-3) – Brightest and Best

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.

- 1** Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.
- 2** Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining;
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall.
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and monarch and Savior of all.
- 3** Shall we not yield him in costly devotion
Rarest of fragrances, tribute divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?



EIGHTH LESSON... The Meaning

John 1:1-5, 14-18

John gives us the theological meaning of Jesus' birth

JOHN 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was with God in the beginning.

3Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it...

14The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

15John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" 16From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. 17For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

RESPONSORY

M The Word of the Lord!

C **Thanks be to God!**

SOLO

O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76, abr.; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, St. Louis, 1941, alt.

*O Jesus Christ, Your manger is
My paradise where my soul is reclining.
For there, O Lord, We find the Word
Made flesh for us—your grace is brightly shining.*

NINTH LESSON... The Meaning

Hebrews 2:11-18

John gives us the theological meaning of Jesus' birth

HEBREWS 2:11 Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. ¹²He says,

“I will declare your name to my brothers;
in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises.”

¹³And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again he says,

“Here am I, and the children God has given me.”

¹⁴Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. ¹⁷For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

RESPONSORY

M The Word of the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

HYMN

366 – O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62, abr.; tr. Frieda Pietsch, alt.

1 O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!
For sinners you became a child.
You came from heaven to fulfill
Your Father's just and holy will.
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!

2 O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!
With God we now are reconciled.
You have for all the ransom paid,
Your Father's righteous anger stayed.
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!

3 O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!
Joy fills the world which sin defiled.
Whate'er we have belongs to you;
Oh, keep us faithful, strong, and true.
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!

WE RESPOND

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING EXORTATION

Acts 4:13-20

^{ACTS 4:13}When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. ¹⁴But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. ¹⁵So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. ¹⁶“What are we going to do with these men?” they asked. “Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name.”

¹⁸Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹But Peter and John replied, “Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God. ²⁰For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

CLOSING HYMN

61 – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, abr., alt.

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all you nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th’ angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

Refrain:

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

- 2 Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th’ incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!**

Refrain

- 3 Hail, the heav’nly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.**

Refrain

*After worship, please feel free to greet one another outside,
maintaining masking and six foot social distancing suggestions.*

Company's Coming

“**Company's Coming**” is the theme that unites the messages from God's Word that we hear this Advent and Christmas season. The series, “**Company's Coming**”, takes us from the mess in our hearts, to the clean-up and decoration that God both demands and produces inside us, to the joy of welcoming and “hanging out with” both Jesus and those Jesus puts around us.

Who doesn't like Advent and Christmas? They are seasons of excitement and joy. And why not, **Company's Coming!**

- Company's Coming: This Place is a Mess! (1st Sunday in Advent, Nov. 29, 2020)
- Company's Coming: Clean-up Crew (2nd Sunday in Advent, Dec. 6, 2020)
- Company's Coming: Deck the Halls (3rd Sunday in Advent, Dec. 13, 2020)
- Company's Coming: Waiting on the Threshold (4th Sunday in Advent, Dec. 20, 2020)
- Company's Coming: Welcoming the Guest (Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 2020)
- Company's Coming: Enjoying the Company (1st Sunday after Christmas, Dec. 27, 2020)
- Company's Coming: Living the Celebration (2nd Sunday after Christmas, Jan. 3, 2021)

It has been our joy to have you here this evening to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As we go our separate ways, traveling toward our traditions, may we remember that the greatest gift came wrapped in swaddling clothes with a tag saying "From: God the Father – To: The World – With Love!" Have a blessed Christmas Eve. The poem below is meant to focus our hearts in the proper direction as we exchange gifts this Christmas season.

We also invite you to join us for Christmas Eve Compline this evening at 11:00 p.m. or Christmas Day Worship tomorrow at 9:30 a.m.

Die Bescherung

(German: "the sharing," or the distribution of Christmas gifts)

A poem to read before the opening of gifts

*So now it's Christmas once again, the time of Jesus' birth,
When angels scurry round about to every home on earth
To watch the goings on this eve around each Christmas tree
And with rejoicing celebrate when in a place they see
Hearts aglow with faith and love because of God's great gift,
Homes that sparkle in the snow, not aimlessly adrift
With loud and boisterous unconcern for the great mystery
That on this eve in Bethlehem's barn occurred for you and me:
The Son of God exchanged His robes -- that's what the angels saw --
For swadd'ling bands and mother's care, while shepherds stood in awe;
He came, the Lord, to share our lives and save from misery;
He came, our Lord, to make us lords with Him eternally!
Now angels, as God's messengers, again rejoice to see
Families gathered in His name around the Christmas tree.
God's gift is not forgotten as they give gifts to share,
In fact, His gift gives to each gift that very special flair
Of love that flows from God's own love; it binds all hearts in one.
That family shares, which truly shares the gift of God's own Son!
So come now family, each in turn, your special tribute bring,
To the delight of each of us, in honor of your King.
Say your fine piece, or sing a tune, or speak but just a word;
We listen, cheered and cheering, to things we just now heard.
Then snug up in a settled spot and wait your turn to get
The gifts marked with your name; they'll be just right, I'll bet --
"Just what you need," for each of us has taken special care
To see to it that each of us get gifts that are as rare
As mother's love and apple pie, and in their own say
"I love you much!" And so let's get The Sharing underway.*

AJK