



Christmas Day - December 25th

Hymn: CW #62 *“Joy To The World”*

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev’ry heart, prepare him room, and heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove.
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love.
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Christmas Exhortation and Prayer (*Congregation join in the bolded portions*)

- M: As we join in celebration with all Christendom this morning, we come to stand beside the manger bed and to rejoice that the Savior of the world has now been born. The Christ Child has come clothed with human flesh and blood to be our Savior from sin. He comes as the fulfillment of God's promise to bring life and salvation to the world. This morning we rejoice with the prophets of old as they looked ahead to the time of God's favor in the sending of his son.
- M: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light (*Isaiah 9:2*)
- C: On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.**
(*Isaiah 9:2*)
- M: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be his shoulders. (*Isaiah 9:6*)
- C: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.** (*Isaiah 9:7*)
- M: A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. (Numbers 24:17)
- C: A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.** (*Isaiah 11:1*)
- M: He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. (*2 Samuel 7:13*)
- C: This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord our Righteous Savior.**
(*Jeremiah 23:6*)
- M: O Lord, on this holy day, we rejoice in the good news of greatest joy that a Savior has been born for us. We praise you for fulfilling your promise, for in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, therefore, we give you our heartfelt thanks and songs of praise.

Hymn: *CW #34 “We Sing We Now Rejoice”*

**Now sing we, now rejoice, now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth, poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth, the sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!**

**Now through his Son doth shine, the Father's grace divine.
Death o'er us had reigned, through sin and vanity
He for us obtained, eternal joy on high
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!**

**Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'nly ground,
Where the angels singing, with all his saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing, in heav'nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!**



The Peace of The Christ Child

Ever since we were conceived and born in sin, we have been under the curse of God's holy law. Where God demands perfection, we have only lived in imperfection. Where God has demands perfect obedience, we have only lived in willful disobedience and open rebellion. God's law condemns us of our sins and threatens eternal punishment. But it was the Christ Child born of human flesh and blood, who through his birth placed himself under the same curse of God's law. Yet through his perfect life, he would perfectly keep and fulfill God's law in our place. Through the Christ Child we are now free from the curse of the law and are now at peace with God.

Galatians 4: 1-7

¹What I am saying is that as long as an heir is underage, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. ²The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. ³So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world. ⁴But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Hymn: CW #56 "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

**Gentle Mary laid her Child lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger:
Such a Babe in such a place, can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found His favor.**

**Angels sang about His birth; wise men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around them:
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.**

**Gentle Mary laid her Child lowly in a manger;
He is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger:
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth, hail the King of glory!**

The Love of the Christ Child

God's amazing love for sinners is shown in the birth of his one and only Son. A Child born to one day give his life on a cross for the sins of the world. The Christ Child came to reconcile us to God. Reconcile means to "bring in line with" or "to be in harmony with." By nature, we were once objects of God's wrath, once being the very enemies of God. But through the death and resurrection of the Christ Child, we have now been reconciled to God. We are now at peace with God, made to be his children by faith, no longer objects of wrath, but now objects of his mercy and love.

Romans 5:6-11

⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Hymn **CW #53 "To Shepherds As They Watched By Night"**

To shepherds as they watched by night appeared a host of angels bright;

"Behold the tender babe," they said, "In yonder lowly manger laid.

"At Bethlehem in David's town, as Micah did of old make known.

It is the Christ, your Lord and King, who will to all salvation bring."

You shall and must at last prevail; God's own you are, you cannot fail.

To God forever sing your praise with joy and patience all your days.

The Joy of the Christ Child

With his birth, the Christ Child truly became Immanuel, meaning “God with us.” How great is the mercy of God in the sending of his Son, to be one of us, to live among us in very flesh and blood. He came to live and die for us, that we might simply live by faith believing on his Name for the certainty of our salvation. The Christ Child came to do away with the fear of death, by bringing the joy of eternal life. The Christ Child came to destroy the darkness of sin, by bringing us into the light of his grace. Every day, we live in the certainty of being heirs of heaven, because we stand in faith in God’s one and only Son.

John 3:16-21

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Hymn CW #41 “Let All Together Praise Our God”

**Let all together praise our God before his highest throne;
Today he opens heav'n again and gives us his own Son,
And gives us his own Son.**

**He leaves his heav'nly Father's throne, is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone, lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall.**

**A wondrous change which he does make: he takes our flesh and blood,
And he conceals for sinners' sake His majesty as God, His majesty as God.**

Sermon Luke 2:15-19

¹⁵When 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.

“The Greatest Gift”

Hymn CW #35 “Of The Father’s Love Begotten”

**Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.**

**Oh, that birth forever blessed when the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face
Evermore and evermore.**

**Let the heights of heav'n adore him, angel hosts his praises sing,
Pow'rs, dominions bow before him and extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.**

Offering

We bring our finest gifts to the Newborn King.

Responsive Christmas Prayer

- M: Lord God, Heavenly Father, we praise you for the special love you have shown us. You have kept your Word and sent your Son to be born as the promised Savior and Redeemer.
- C: Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!**
- M: What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.
- C: Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.**
- M: In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.
- C: Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.**
- M: As the angels sang out their praises, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.
- C: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to men on whom his favor rests!
Amen.**

The Glory of the Christ Child

Not only do we rejoice in the coming of the Christ Child at his birth in Bethlehem, but we also look forward to his second coming at the end of the age. He first came as a lowly child to be our Savior, but he will one day come again as the King of kings, as Judge over all the earth. The Christ Child is our sovereign Lord, whose dominion and rule extends throughout eternity.

Revelation. 22:12-14, 16, 20-21

¹² “Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

¹⁴ “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.

¹⁶ “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”

²⁰He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.”

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

²¹The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.

Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Hymn: *CW #50 "Once In Royal David's City"*

**Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little Child.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
Shall see Him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
Then like stars His children crowned all in white his praise shall sound.**

