



Christmas Tableaux

December 11, 2022

3:30, 5:15, 7:00, 8:15 pm

Welcome to this celebration of the Lord's birth. We hope these scenes remind you of the blessings of Christmas, with its promise of peace and goodwill. Please silence your cell phone, refrain from photography, and try to minimize talking to maintain an atmosphere of reverence. We do understand, however, that children will want to wiggle, whisper, and point and that's just fine.



Order of Service



Hymn: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" (949)

Opening of the Word & the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in the heavens, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, as in heaven so upon the earth. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we also forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

1. Prophecy of Isaiah
2. Annunciation to Mary
3. Annunciation to Joseph
4. Mary Visits Elizabeth
5. A Decree from Caesar Augustus
6. **Shepherds & Nativity** - *You will be invited by the shepherds to "go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass." Follow the shepherds up the center aisle to see the nativity scene, returning by the side aisles.*
7. Simeon & Anna
8. The Wise Men
9. The Child Grew
10. The Word Became Flesh and Dwelt Among Us

Hymn: "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" (965)

Benediction & Closing of the Word

Hymn: "Joy to the World" (962)



Why Christ Was Born



Jehovah God came down and took upon Himself a human form, so as to reduce to order everything in heaven, in hell and in the church. For at that time the power of hell was stronger than the power of heaven, and on earth the power of evil was stronger than the power of good, so that utter damnation stood threatening at the gates.
(*True Christianity* 3)



It is a universal point of faith that no mortal could have been saved, if the Lord had not come into the world. It is a universal point of faith that He came into the world to take hell away from the human race. (*True Christianity* 2)

Jesus was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."

Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." (Luke 4:17-21)



The Christmas Story



Every detail of the story is true, and every word has meaning. The bright star shone in the darkness to represent the truth that had come to a dark world. Jesus was laid in a manger because He would spiritually feed those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. There was no room in the inn because there was no room for God in human hearts. The angels appeared, not to the corrupt leaders of the time, but to shepherds because they

symbolized leaders who love truth and strive to lead others towards goodness. He was born to a virgin because He was the Son of God, but also because a virgin stands for the innocent love in every person's heart that first accepts God into their life.

The angels of heaven rejoiced at every one of these events, which were the fulfillment of the ancient prophecies. They still rejoice whenever this story is heard or read – especially when it touches the heart of a child. For the Lord's birth takes place repeatedly in every person, and His work of salvation goes on continually.

Please join us for the following services:

Advent Choral Vespers - Dec 17 - 7:30 pm

Christmas Eve Services - Dec 24 - 4:00 | 5:30 | 7:00 pm

Christmas Day Service - Dec 25 - 11:30 am



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