



Christmas Tableaux

December 10, 2023

3:30 | 5:15 | 7:00 | 8:15 p.m.

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 that children will want to wiggle, whisper, and point and that's just fine. We're glad you came.



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. Joseph's Dream
4. Mary Visits Elizabeth
5. Going to Be Registered
6. Shepherds & Nativity

You will be invited to "go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass." Go up the center aisle to see the nativity scene and return by the side aisles.

7. Simeon & Anna
8. 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)

Begin singing when the choir does, after a long intro.



Why Christ Was Born



Jehovah God came down and took on a human form, so as to restore to order everything in heaven, everything in hell, and everything in the church. For at the time of His coming the power of hell had become stronger than the power of heaven, and on earth the power of evil had become stronger than the power of good, so that total damnation stood threatening at the door. (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 of the Lord's birth has a deeper 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 (a food trough) 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. The Lord's birth takes place repeatedly in every person, and His work to save us from our sins goes on continually.

Join us for our other Christmas services:

Advent Choral Vespers - Dec 16 - 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services - Dec 24 - 4:00 | 5:30 | 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service - Dec 25 - 11:30 a.m.



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