



# Christmas Tableaux

December 14, 2025

2:30 | 4:15 | 6:00 | 7:45 pm

*Welcome to this celebration of the Lord's birth. We ask that you silence your cell phone, refrain from photography, and try to minimize talking. We do understand that children will want to wiggle, whisper, and point and that's just fine. We're glad you're here.*



## Order of Service



Hymn: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" (971)

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.

The Prophecy of Isaiah

An Angel Appears to Zacharias

The Annunciation to Mary

Joseph's Dream

Mary Visits Elizabeth

The Naming of John

Going to Be Registered

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.*

The Journey of the Wise Men

The Child Grew

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 with the choir, after a long introduction.*



## The Lord's Coming



I wait for Jehovah, my soul waits, and in His word do I hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning – yes, more than watchmen for the morning. Let Israel hope in Jehovah; for with Jehovah there is mercy, and with Him there is much redemption. (Psalm 130:5-7)

Because “evening” is a time when there is no faith, and “morning” when there is, the Lord’s Coming into the world is called “the morning.” (*Arcana Coelestia* 22)



The Lord is present with each and every human being, urging and pressing us to receive Him. When we do receive Him, which occurs when we acknowledge Him as our own God, Creator, Redeemer, and Savior, His First Coming occurs in us, which is the twilight before dawn. From then on, we begin to be enlightened intellectually in spiritual matters and to grow into deeper and deeper wisdom. As we receive this wisdom from the Lord, we move through the morning into midday. The day continues into our old age until we die. Then we come to the Lord Himself in heaven. (*True Christianity* 766)

Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied [about John], saying,.... “And you, little child, shall be called the prophet of the Highest; for you shall go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways; to give the knowledge of salvation to His people for the forgiveness of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God, by which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; to appear to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” (Luke 1:76-79)



## Hope for Salvation



Jesus was born into this world “in the days of Herod the king,” at a time when evil seemed to have complete control. The good people that remained longed for “the Consolation of Israel,” but, like the old priest Zacharias and his wife Elizabeth, they were barren and unable to bring new life into the dark world. That is, until the messengers of the Lord started appearing to people, bringing unbelievably good news, “good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.”

Such news is hard to believe. In a dark night it is hard to believe that morning will ever come. It is hard to believe that our prayers have been heard and that things will change for the better. The power of evil remains terribly strong in this world and still causes much harm, but that little baby born in Bethlehem still has the power to “save His people from their sins.” Like Joseph, let us follow the angel’s message to flee from Herod, in whatever way he shows up in our lives. Like Mary, let us ponder the significance of the Lord’s birth into this world and be renewed in our innocent trust in His care and His ability “to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

### Join us for our Christmas services:

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

Christmas Day Adult Service - Dec. 25 - 11:30 am



Bryn Athyn Church

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