

For unto you is born
this day in the
city of David
a Saviour,
which is
Christ the
Lord.

Luke 2:11



JESUS' BIRTHDAY

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A SERVICE OF CELEBRATION IN HONOR OF JESUS' BIRTHDAY



Lord Jesus, when You came into this world, You chose the small town of Bethlehem. I pray that today You would choose my heart to be Your manger. I know it isn't very big or very clean, but I pray that You will clean it and make me worthy. Amen.

Welcome! Today the Christian Church sings its praise to God for the mystery of the Word who became flesh, the incarnate God, Jesus Christ. Our Savior Jesus is both true God and true man, the Son of God and the Son of Mary. We celebrate this great mystery, recognizing that Jesus' birth into this world was the first step on the road to the cross, by which he paid for our sins and earned our salvation and redemption.

The Order of Service

Hymn 42 vv.1-3

Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

1 Come, your hearts and voices
raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness
praising;
Loudly sing his love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.

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.

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.

The Invocation

The Invocation and Christmas Day Response

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: (spoken) Amen.

Pastor: Arise! Shine! For your Light has come!

People: And the glory of the Lord is dawning upon you!

Pastor: Look, darkness covers the earth, and deep darkness covers the peoples,

People: but the Lord will dawn upon you, and his glory will be seen over you.

Pastor: Nations will walk to your light,

People: and kings to the brightness of your dawn!

Pastor: For to us a child is born,

People: to us a son is given.

Pastor: the authority to rule will rest on his shoulders.

People: He will be names Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Pastor: There will be no limit to his authority

People: and no end to the peace he brings.

Pastor: He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom,

People: to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness

Pastor: from now on, into eternity.

People: The zeal of the Lord of Armies will accomplish this.

Hymn 67 vv.1-2

What Child Is This?

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!

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!

The Story of Our Savior's Birth

In the beginning, God created a perfect world. It didn't take long for people to ruin it. It took even less time for God to provide a plan to rescue us from our sin. In Genesis 3:15, immediately after our fall into sin, God promised a Savior. He promised His own Son:

*I will put hostility between you and the woman,
and between your seed and her seed.*

*He will crush your head,
and you will crush his heel."*

As time passed, God gave more and more details about the coming Messiah. Through Moses, the Psalmist and Isaiah, He told us that Jesus would be from the tribe of Judah and among Jesse's and David's descendants. In Genesis 49:10 He writes:

*The scepter will not depart from Judah,
nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,
until the one to whom it belongs comes.*

He will receive the obedience of the peoples.

and in Psalm 132:11, He tells us:

The LORD swore to David,

a truth which he will not turn back:

"From the fruit of your body

I will place kings on your throne.

in Isaiah 11:1-2, The Lord continues:

*A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse,
and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit.*

*The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him:
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.*

Through Micah He told us very specifically where His Son would be born. Today we relive the fulfillment of these promises. Micah wrote for us in chapter 5:2:

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,

*though you are small among the clans of Judah,
from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel.
His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity.*

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 ever lasting 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 wondering love.
O morning stars together
proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King
and peace to all the earth.

Caesar Augustus is one of the most well known of the Roman Emperors. His most famous act is one that might have surprised him. It was a simple decree for a census to determine the tax base for the empire.

Caesar thought that he was moving people to generate more money. In reality, God was moving history to fulfill prophecy. God used Caesar's decree to get Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem on Christmas day:

Luke 2:1-7

Pastor & Barb

Mary Did You Know?

And so God fulfilled some of the most beloved and well-known prophecies about His Son. Isaiah spoke in Isaiah 7:14 *Therefore the Lord himself will give a sign for all of you. Look! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and name him Immanuel.*

Isaiah revealed that this baby, born in a manger, would bring light into the darkness and life into the land of the shadow of death. This was no ordinary child. This was the king, God himself, come into the world to save us. The prophet foretold in Isaiah 9:6:

*For to us a child is born.
To us a son is given.
The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders.
He will be named:*

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Luke 2:8-12

Hymn 68 vv.1,3

Away in a Manger

- 1 Away in a manger,
 no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid
 down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky
looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus,
 asleep on the hay.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus;
 I ask you to stay
 Close by me forever
 and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children
 in your tender care,
And take us to Heaven
 to live with you there.

Luke 2:13-20

Hymn 63 vv.1,3

Angels We Have Heard on High

- 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.
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo;
 Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Sermon

Matthew 1:21–23 (EHV)

²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³“Look, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son. And they will name him Immanuel,” which means, “God with us.”

Responsive Prayer

Pastor: Gracious God, on this Christmas morning, once again we stand in awe of your grace. You came into your own creation to take our place, to be rejected, convicted, and sacrificed for our salvation.

People: “He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:11-12).

Pastor: We are thankful, Almighty One, to be numbered among your children. We pray that our worship may please you.

People: “Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ In fact, I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” (Matthew 9:13).

Pastor: The world is rife with sin and sin’s wages: death. We implore you, Prince of Peace, to bring the peace of forgiveness to all people on the earth.

People: “[Jesus] came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:17-18).

Pastor: Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free; from our sins and fears release us by your death on Calvary.

**People: Born your people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now your gracious kingdom bring!”
Amen.**

(Christian Worship Hymn 6)

Pastor: Lord Jesus, in your name we pray:

**People: Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever. 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.

Hymn 62 vv.1-2

Joy to the World

1 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.

2 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.