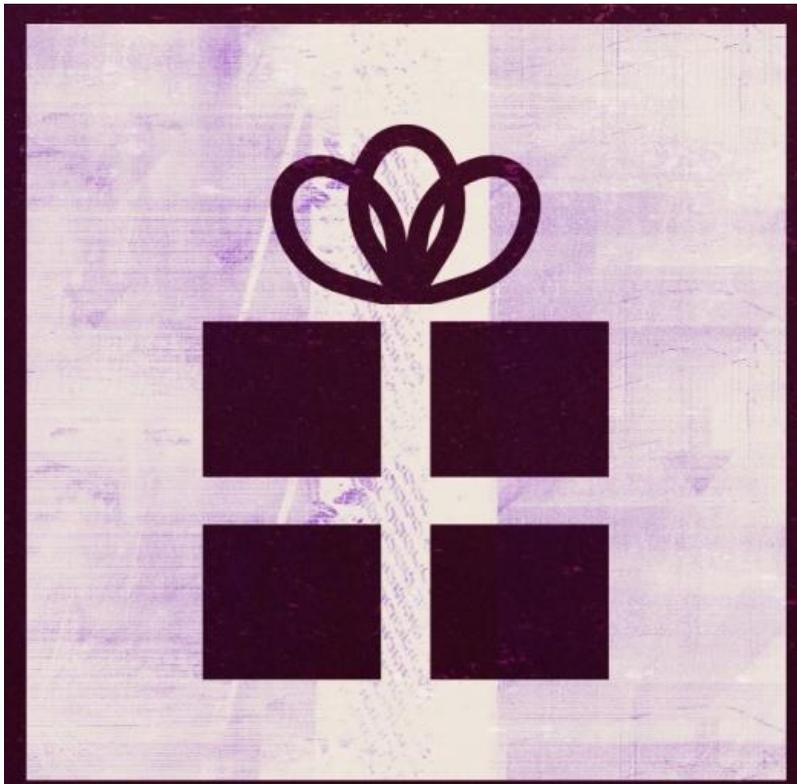


The Perfect Gift



Christmas Eve 2020

Grace Lutheran Church
Yorba Linda, California

The Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2020

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord.

C: Oh, come, let us adore him!

CHRISTMAS ACCLAMATION

L: O Lord, the ruler of ages eternal, you are without beginning or end:

C: Yet you chose to be born an infant in time.

L: O Lord, the invisible, you are the One no one has seen or can see:

C: Yet you assume the face of the son of Mary.

L: O Lord, the all-powerful, you hold the mountains in the palm of your hand:

C: Yet you let yourself be wrapped in the blankets of an infant.

L: O Lord, the eternal glory, innumerable angels acclaim you endlessly:

C: Yet you chose to be rocked to sleep by the songs of the daughter of David.

L: O Lord, the universal provider, you feed every creature:

C: Yet you chose to hunger for the milk of your mother.

L: O Lord, the infinite, heaven and earth cannot contain you:

C: Yet you rest in the arms of Mary.

L: O Lord, the perfect joy, you are the source of happiness in heaven and earth:

C: Yet you cry as a little child.

L: O Lord, the eternal Word, you are the light of all created intelligence:

C: Yet you are laid in a manger and cannot even speak.

L: O Lord, we confess that we do not deserve the magnificence of your love for we have not loved you and we have not loved one another as you desire. We have sinned against you in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds, and in all that we have not done.

C: Forgive us, Lord Jesus, for the sake of your great love. Deliver and restore us that we might find true peace.

L: You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. I say to you, therefore, what Christ himself says: Your sins are forgiven.

C: Thanks be to God!

**Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, Born the King of angels.**

Refrain:

**Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,
Only begotten Son of God the Father.**

Refrain

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest.**

Refrain

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n,
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing.**

Refrain



PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen. *(spoken)*

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

Oh, what the Perfect Gift, gives: light, victory, peace, righteousness - forever.

- ²The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.
- ³You have enlarged the nation
and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice
when dividing the plunder.
- ⁴For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.
- ⁵Every warrior's boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,
will be fuel for the fire.
- ⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- ⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.

CAROL

Angels We Have Heard On High

Christian Worship #63



**Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?**

Refrain

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.**

Refrain



GOSPEL READING and SERMON

Luke 2:1-20

² In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ **But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord.** ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ When 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.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.”

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: On this holy night, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For keeping your promise and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our thanks and praise.

C: Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!

L: 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 so he might wear our sin at the cross and clothe us with his righteousness.

C: Give us a faith that ponders this in our hearts and finds peace in the gift of our Savior.

L: 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. In the midst of our peace, we pray for the many people in our world who live in fear. In the midst of our hope, we place before you all who are troubled or lonely or hungry or sick or dying.

C: Grant your comfort to all people.

L: As the angels sang out their praise, 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! Amen.

**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.**



SILENT NIGHT

L: The people who walked in darkness, have seen a great light.

C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

L: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C: We have seen the glory of the Christ, the glory of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

L: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

Candles can be lit.

Prayer by all

Everlasting God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have sent your Word to become flesh and live among us, to enlighten the darkness of our lives with your holy light. Let us so adore him with our lives that the light of our faith may shine in all that we do. In his name we give thanks and pray. Amen.

THE BLESSING

L. The blessing of the eternal God be upon us, his light to guide us, his presence to shelter us, his peace to unite us, now and forever.

C. Amen.

♫ **Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**