

Savior of the Nations Come

December 17, 2023

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

This year’s program is based on the great hymn “Savior of the Nations, Come,” which unpacks the miracle of the two natures of Christ (human and divine). The simple truth that God is man is both a profound mystery and a simple confession.

The program follows a simple pattern repeated four times: hymn, reading, hymn, meditation. As the hymn focuses on the two natures of Christ, it also rejoices that the God-man has come to be the Savior of the Nations. The promise made to Abraham (Genesis 12) now finds fulfillment in the Child of the promise. He comes to rescue and redeem all that once was His. Certainly there would be no nations of the world had not sin, death, and the power of the devil overtaken us in the garden. The consequences of sin find brother fighting against brother. The lines of division, including national borders, are drawn to separate and claim what once was God’s gracious gift to all mankind. Yet despite our sinful divisions, the Christ comes to make us whole. He comes for all the nations of the world to reveal Himself as the long-expected Jesus.

A NOTE REGARDING PHOTOGRAPHS

Because this church service is not a mere program or performance but an opportunity to worship, we kindly ask that you refrain from taking photographs or video during the service. You are invited to take photographs after the service.

CHILDREN’S SERVICE
+ *In Nomine Jesu* +

PRESERVICE MUSIC

PROCESSIONAL

**O Come, All Ye Faithful
O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels**

Spanish refrain sung by the choir
Venid, adoremos,
venid, adoremos,
venid, adoremos
a Cristo el Señor.

**Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing!**

German refrain sung by the choir
Kommt, lasset uns anbeten,
kommt, lasset uns anbeten,
kommt, lasset uns anbeten,
den König, den Herrn.

**Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest:**

French refrain sung by the choir
En lui viens reconnaître,
En lui viens reconnaître,
En lui viens reconnaître
ton Dieu, ton Sauveur.

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv’n!
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing!**

**O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!**

L. O Lord, o - pen my lips,
 C. and my mouth shall de - clare Your praise.
 Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;
 as it was in the be-gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PSALMODY

Psalm 117
Antiphon: John 1:14

Choir

Antiphon

The Word be-came flesh and dwelt a - mong _____ us.

Psalm Tone

Congregation (repeat antiphon):
The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Psalm Tone

IX g: Aeolian

People: **Praise the LORD, all | nations!***
Extol him, all | peoples!
For great is his steadfast | love toward us,*
and the faithfulness of the LORD
endures forever. | Praise the LORD!
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Children (antiphon):
 The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray.
 Almighty God, who by the mouth of Your holy prophets
 did proclaim the coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the Hope of
 Israel and Savior of the Nations, help us we pray to see Him rightly
 as our own Lord and Savior, and by true faith rejoice in Your
 salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with
 You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS

HYMN

Away in a Manger

Congregation
Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

READING Luke 2:1–7

HYMN Once in Royal David’s City

Once in royal David’s city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

For He is our childhood’s pattern,
Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness,
And He shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heav’n above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor, lowly stable
With the oxen standing by

Shall we see Him, but in heaven,
Set at God’s right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned,
All in white, His praise will sound!

MEDITATION A Lowly Cattle Shed

HYMN Savior of the Nations, Come

Congregation:

Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin’s Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav’n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

Choir (antiphon):
The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Congregation:
From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.

Choir repeat antiphon

RECITATION Athanasian Creed (27–29) Mike Carper

* * *

HYMN Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

Now sing we, now rejoice,

Now raise to heav’n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art!
Thou my Savior art!

Come from on high to me;
I cannot rise to Thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child;
Through Thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto Thee!
Draw me unto Thee!

Now through His Son doth shine
The Father’s grace divine.
Death was reigning o’er us
Through sin and vanity
Till He opened for us
A bright eternity.
May we praise Him there!
May we praise Him there!

Oh, where shall joy be found?
Where but on heav’nly ground?
Where the angels singing
With all His saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing
In heav’nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there!
Oh, that we were there!

READING Luke 2:8–11

NIGHT OF SILENCE

CHANCEL CHOIR

7

MEDITATION Mother and Child, God’s Pure Light

HYMN Savior of the Nations, Come

Congregation:
Not by human flesh and blood
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.

Choir (antiphon):
The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Congregation:
For You are the Father’s Son
Who in flesh the vict’ry won.
By Your mighty pow’r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.

Choir repeat antiphon

RECITATION Athanasian Creed (30–34) Bev Schmidt

* * *

HYMN Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain:
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

8

Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.

**Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!**

Refrain:

**Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.**

Refrain

READING Luke 2:12–14

HYMN **Angels We Have Heard on High**

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

Refrain (after each stanza):

**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:

MEDITATION ⁹ Songs of Angels and Shepherds

HYMN **Savior of the Nations, Come**

Congregation:

**Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.**

Choir (antiphon):

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

***Congregation:*
God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.**

Choir repeat antiphon

RECITATION Athanasian Creed (35–37) Al Hosford

* * *

HYMN **Gentle Mary Laid Her Child**

**Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefined,
To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place,
Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found His favor.**

**Angels sang about His birth,
Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven’s star shone brightly forth
Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night,
All the hills were ringing.**

10

**Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined
But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth,
Beautiful the story;**

**Praise His name in all the earth;
Hail the King of glory!**

READING Luke 2:15–20

HYMN **Jesus Loves Me**

Sí, Cristo me ama;
sí, Cristo me ama;
sí, Cristo me ama;
la Biblia dice así.

**Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.**

Refrain:
**Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me! He who died
Heaven’s gates to open wide.
He has washed away my sin,
Lets His little child come in. *Refrain***

MEDITATION Savior of the Nations, Come!

HYMN **Savior of the Nations, Come**

Congregation:
**Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,**

His heroic course began.

Choir(antiphon):
The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Congregation:
**Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.**

BENEDICTUS **Sing Praise to the God of Israel**

**Sing praise to the God of Israel!
Sing praise for His visitation!
Redeeming His people from their sin,
Accomplishing their salvation,
Upraising a mighty horn within
The house of His servant David!**

**God spoke by the prophets long ago,
His promise on oath recalling—
To Abraham made in former years:
Of vanquishing foes appalling,
That those He delivered from their fears
Might gladly and truly serve Him.**

**You, child, will go on before the Lord
As prophet, His way preparing;
To speak on behalf of God Most High,
His counsel of truth declaring:
Rich mercy and grace for all whereby
Iniquity is forgiven.**

**O bright, rising Sun, now shine on us
In need of illumination;
Come scatter the shades of sin and death
And shatter their domination.
Be guiding our footsteps on the path
Of peace, in Your presence dawning!**

OFFERING

COLLECT

Pastor: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to 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.**

13

Musical notation for the phrase "Let us bless the Lord." It consists of a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of five quarter notes: B-flat, C, D, E, and F. The lyrics "Let us bless the Lord." are written below the staff.

Musical notation for the phrase "Thanks be to God." It consists of a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of five quarter notes: B-flat, C, D, E, and F. The lyrics "Thanks be to God." are written below the staff.

Musical notation for the phrase "The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre-serve you." It consists of a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of five quarter notes: B-flat, C, D, E, and F. The lyrics "The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre-serve you." are written below the staff.

Musical notation for the phrase "A - men." It consists of a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of five quarter notes: B-flat, C, D, E, and F. The lyrics "A - men." are written below the staff.

POSTLUDE

Savior of the Nations
A Christmas Service for School-Age Children

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The third candle which is pink is REJOICE - I am bringing you good news of great Joy for all the people.” Luke 2:10 As the flame has spread from one wick to three, so does heaven’s joy multiply -- from angel tongue ... to shepherds’ beating feet ... to “all the people.” Rejoice!



Savior of the Nations

As Prayer Warriors with Love, Inc.: For women – a woman please pray over her health issues, her car issues, and for a friend's son. a woman please pray for her children with mental health issues, for her health, and for better housing. a woman please pray that she will become financially stable, and that she will find a good support system here in the area. a woman please pray that she will grow her relationship with God. Also, please pray she will find a job that is best for her. a woman please pray that she will have good health, that she will give better understanding because she lost her grandmother. Please also pray that she will have therapy. a woman please pray that she will get her life back on track. Please pray for her to have strength, and patience. a woman please pray that she will find a better life than what she is living now. a woman please pray over her life. Pray as she makes her decisions, that she will use good wide judgement. a woman please pray for her health, financial and employment security. Also, please pray for positivity.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

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