

December 7-Written Service

Special Music- Christmas program

Advent Candle Readers- Shawn and Rashelle Jensen family

Advent Candle Singers- Emma Jensen and Brooke LaDage

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Most High God, for you nothing is impossible.

All: Through a poor young woman in a small town you gave birth to your realm of endless glory.

Leader: By your Holy Spirit, fill us with new life and hope, so that we, like Mary, might be your servants,

All: Bearing witness to the promise of Your Word: through Jesus Christ, who is coming to reign.

Song: #259- Angels From the Realms of Glory (vs. 1,2,5)

Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship,
Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing;
Yonder shines the Infant light:

Come and worship,
Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Tho' an infant now we view Him,
He will share His Father's throne;
Gather all the nations to Him;
Every knee shall then bow down:

Come and worship, Come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Formatted: Space After: 0 pt

“Guess Who’s Coming to Bethlehem?” by Michael and Jill Gallina

CAST

Penguin: Remy Ten Napel	Cardinal: Elsa Sudbeck
Lamb: Maecyn Vander Wilt	Mouse: Madilynn Vander Wilt
Bluebird: Adam Lewis	Donkey: Gauge Harshfield
Owl: Aubrey Pennings	Cow: Conner Vander Wilt
Duck: Emma Jensen	Mama Chicken: Brooke LaDage
Angel (chick): Tegan Lindgren	Chick: Claire Sage
Chick: Abby LaDage	Chick: Paisley Bates
Chick: Abby Jensen	Chick: Jason Jensen
Education Director: Brianna Bates	Director: Minda Thompson
AV: Dave Sage	AV: Chris Lewis

Song: #269- How Great Our Joy (vs. 1,2,4)

**While by the sheep we watched at night,
Glad tidings brought an angel bright.
How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!**

**Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!**

**There shall be born, so he did say,
In Bethlehem a Child today.
How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!**

**Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!**

**This Gift of God we'll cherish well,
That ever joy our hearts shall fill.
How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!**

**Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!**

Announcements

Advent Candle Reading: Shawn and Rashell Jensen family

Advent Candle Singers: Emma Jensen and Brooke LaDage

Congregational Prayer

Song: #279- Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Infant holy, Infant lowly,
For His bed--a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all.

Swift are winging, angels singing,
Noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the Babe, is Lord of all
Christ the Babe, is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story--
Tidings of a gospel true.

Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
Praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ, the Babe, was born for you!
Christ, the Babe, was born for you!

Offering/Offertory

Offering Song: Glorify Thy Name

Offering Prayer

Scripture- [Luke 1: 26-38](#)

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most

High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called^[b] the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Message

Intro-snow

Gather some snow right after it's fallen, when everything is still perfect

Take a picture of where it was taken from

Keep in it a jar, sealed

Think everything is pure and clean

Would you eat this snow?

Teacher did an experiment when I was a kid

Had us find the cleanest snow we could and keep it in a jar inside until it melted

But who would drink this?

Why not?

It's dirty, not clean, not pure water

Purity (white)

The next few weeks as we lead up to Christmas, we're going to be looking at some of the colors you'll see all around you

Each can be a reminder of something important about Jesus' birth

Today is white, which reminds us of purity

Scripture-Luke 1:26-38

Hold on to this passage for a second

Human can't be pure/holy

From Adam and Eve on page 3 of the Bible on, no human has been sinless, pure, perfect, holy

We're the same, none of us are as pure as we appear

Think of the best person you know, just like the cleanest snow available

We all have mistakes we've made and ways we've messed up

Can you imagine what living a perfectly pure life would be like?

To have never told a lie

To never be motivated by greed or pride

To never take something that wasn't yours

Or cheat on your taxes

Or give in to your anger or your lust

Maybe this doesn't seem like a problem because it's so normal and familiar to us

There's a scene in Revelation 5:1-5 that sticks out to me when I think about holiness/purity

Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. ²And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" ³But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. ⁴I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. ⁵Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

Or in the Old Testament

Which lambs (white again) can be used as sacrifices to pay the price for the sins that people commit?

Only the perfect and pure lambs

We sometimes get callous or desensitized to the impurity of it all

But that doesn't mean it isn't a problem for humanity

Which brings us back to our passage

Miracles

Can a person be perfect?

The answer seems like a pretty obvious no

From everything we've been talking about and from our own experiences with people, we know that we all mess up from time to time

But we also know that a virgin can't give birth

These things are fundamentally opposite

People can't be pure

Virgins can't give birth

It's all so impossible

The story of Christmas reminds us that Jesus was, in every sense of the word, a contradiction and a miracle

There are signs of that from the very announcement of His coming birth

To fix our situation it takes something different, something miraculous, a fresh start

What if snow was really as clean and pure and we thought when we were kids?

What if people were really as good and pure as we were supposed to be?

What if someone was worthy to open to seal or to be the once and for all perfect sacrifice to clean up all the mistakes and pay all the debt?

The sacrifice question is another important one, especially in telling the Christmas story

And it's one we're going to dive into more next week, when the color is red

Song: #258- Go, Tell it On the Mountain (vs. 1,3)

Benediction

Postlude