



*Unto Us Came  
the Heart of  
Christmas*

*Jesus is the heart  
of everything that is true,  
that is good, and that is holy.*

—Roy Lessin



# NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

## CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25, 2012

### PRELUDE

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN-----“*Joy to the World*”-----# 267 ELW  
vs. 1 & 2

### CHRISTMAS DIALOG

Leader: The world is decked in the garb of celebration:

**People: Tinsel and lights, garlands of greenery, brightly colored packages and flashing Christmas greetings cover our world.**

Leader: The world is engaged in the spirit of celebration:

**People: Festive singing, fine food, merry parties, and grand Tradition abound.**

Leader: Yet the best efforts fall short,

**People: For it is the birth of the Messiah we celebrate.**

Leader: It is the incarnation of God.

**People: How can we respond to the greatness of this event?**

Leader: How can we celebrate the Messiah’s birth?

**People: We celebrate in worship.**

Leader: Christmas is a time of worship. It is the moment when the busiest of pause in wonder.

**People: Let us worship together!**

HYMN----- “*Joy to the World*”-----# 267 ELW  
vs. 3 & 4

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7–10

*A messenger races home to Jerusalem with the marvelous words: "Your God reigns!" In comforting the people, God proves to be the best brother or sister (redeemer) they have ever known. Everyone will witness the victory (salvation) of God.*

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger  
who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces  
salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for  
joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.  
Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the  
LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the  
nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of  
our God.

## **Psalm 98**

***Refrain:** All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.  
(Ps. 98:3)*

Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

**O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have  
revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of  
Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our  
God.

**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing. R**

Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of  
song.

**With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
shout with joy before the king, the LORD. R**

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell  
therein.

**Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with  
joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**

The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the  
peoples

with equity. **R**

## **GOSPEL: John 1:1–14**

*The prologue to the Gospel of John describes Jesus as the Word of God made flesh, the one who reveals God to be "full of grace and truth."*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**HYMN-----“Your Little Ones, Dear Lord”-----# 286 ELW**

## **CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

**HYMN-----“Away in a Manger”-----# 278 ELW**

## **OFFERING AND OFFERATORY PRAYER**

**ALL: Merciful God, it would have been enough for you to give us the fruit of the earth by which we live. But this meal, by your promise, you also give us yourself. Use what we have gathered here in feeding the hungry world with your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

## CHRISTMAS CREED

**ALL: I believe in God the Father, Creator of all things, who sent his Son as my Savior.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, announced by angels, worshipped by the Wise Men, who lived to suffer, die, and rise again, to free me from sin, death, and the power of the devil.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, who has brought me to faith in the Christ and by whose continuous work in my heart I am ever led to lay before the feet of Christ my worship, my life, my love; to live under him as my king, both now and forevermore. Amen.**

## PRAYERS

L: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*(A brief time for silent prayer)*

L: For the increase of peace among the nations, let us pray to the Lord.

**ALL: Christ the Lord, bring peace on earth.**

L: For the spread of the joyful news that the Savior has come, let us pray to the Lord.

**ALL: Christ the Lord, bring joy to the world.**

L: For the poor and those who find no room, let us pray to the Lord.

**ALL: Christ the Lord, bring help to the poor.**

L: For the renewal of the whole church in unity, let us pray to the Lord.

**ALL: Christ the Lord, bring renewal to the church.**

L: For the light of Christmas to shine on us all, let us pray to the Lord.

**ALL: Christ the Lord, bring us the light of your truth.**

L: Rejoicing in your birth and trusting in your mercy, O Christ, Light of the World, we commend all for whom we pray.

**ALL: AMEN**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**HYMN--“The First Noel”- (*Congregation sings during distribution*)  
# 300 ELW**

**COMMUNION**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**ALL: Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word become a part of us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen**

**BLESSING**

**P** Jesus is the promised Savior, born of Mary. May his birth among us renew your hope

**C Amen**

**P** Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C. Amen**

**SENDING**

**P** Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C Thanks be to God**

**CLOSING HYMN--“Go Tell It on the Mountain”--# 290 ELW**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thurs., Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> - 1:00 p.m. Funtimers

Sun., Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> - There will be only **One Worship Service** at  
10:00 a.m. Coffee will be served at 9:00 a.m.  
prior to the Service.

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BLESSINGS TO  
EVERYONE  
ON THIS WONDERFUL  
DAY OF CHRISTMAS.

GO PROCLAIM  
THE GOOD NEWS —  
CHRIST THE SAVIOR  
IS BORN!!