

The Christmas Story

Luke 2

¹And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. ²(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) ³And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) ⁵To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

⁶And so it was, that while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ⁷And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace,
Good will toward men.

¹⁵ And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. ¹⁶ And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Christmas Eve Service, 2016

“Come On Ring Those Bells” Congregation
WELCOME & Reading #188, “Christmas” Larry Olds
Reading Neil Snodderly
“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” Congregation
“O Come, O come Emmanuel” Congregation
“Mary, Did You Know?” Mixed Quartet
Reading Jan Smith
“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” Congregation
“O Little Town of Bethlehem” Congregation
“Silent Night” Mixed Quartet
“The Brightest Star of All” Mixed Quartet
Reading Albert Cinelli
“Angels From The Realms of Glory” Congregation
“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” Men’s Quartet
Reading Ron Barker
“Cherish That Name” Trio

COMMUNION MESSAGE & PRAYER Larry Olds
COMMUNION by FAMILIES

CANDLE LIGHTING — Ed Hughlett
“Joy To The World” Congregation



What Christmas Is All About

*Christmas will always be for us
A time to reflect on Christ
The gift God gave to all the world
Was the gift of His life*

*We know Christmas is not about tinsel
Nor fancy Christmas wreaths
Nor is it about all the decorations
That adorns our Christmas trees

And it's not about Holly or Mistletoe
Hanging from our doors
Nor is it about the gifts that are left
By the jolly Santa Claus*

*Christmas is more than all of this
And the only reason why
We celebrate Christ's birth together
And the wonder of His life*

*So remember as you celebrate
Just what it's all about
And invite the Lord to join with you
Instead of leaving Him out*

*For He will always be the reason
We celebrate this day
No substitute the world may offer
Can take that meaning away*

Jesus Is The Reason

*In Bethlehem, God gave to us
The source of Christmas Joy;
A star shown on a miracle:
The virgin birth of a boy.*

*He was born both God and man,
A Savior for us all,
The way to get to our heavenly home,
If we just heed his call.*

*So as we shop and spend and wrap
And enjoy the Christmas season,
Let's keep in mind the sacred truth:
Jesus is the reason.*