

# ***“Within these walls let no-one be a stranger”***

December 25<sup>th</sup> 2020 **Christmas Day**

## **Prelude**

### **Call to Worship and Approach to God**

Jesus Christ is born today

**Alleluia! The Saviour has come!**

Immanuel, God with us, God is for us

**Alleluia! God in the manger, God in the flesh!**

#### **❖ Hymn 301:**

1. Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born 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!  
*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the new-born King!*
2. Christ, by highest heaven 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!  
*Hark! The herald angels sing,  
Glory to the new-born King!*
3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lay His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
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.  
*Hark! The herald angels sing!  
Glory to the new-born King!*

#### **Prayer of approach (ending with the Lord's Prayer)**

Our Father, which 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## ❖ Lighting of Advent candles

We light the first candle of Advent with a plea for God to come down; we light the second candle of Advent as we hear words of comfort, and good news of homecoming; Our third candle announces the anointing of one who comes with the Spirit of God;

Our fourth candle declares that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Our last candle, in the middle, proclaims the birth of our Saviour Jesus. 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, **and they shall call him Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us.'**

## The Word of God

### ❖ Reading: Luke 2:1-4, 8-20

**2** In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

**8** In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before 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; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, <sup>[a]</sup> the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, **14** "Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"<sup>[c]</sup>

**15** When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." **16** So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. **17** When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. **19** But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### ❖ The Shepherd who stayed (i)

❖ **Hymn 305, verse 1:**

In the bleak midwinter  
Frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen,  
Snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter,  
Long ago.

❖ **The Shepherd who stayed (ii)**

❖ **Hymn 305, verse 2:**

Our God, heaven cannot hold him,  
Nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away  
When he comes to reign;  
In the bleak midwinter  
A stable place sufficed  
The Lord God incarnate,  
Jesus Christ.

❖ **The shepherd who stayed (iii)**

❖ **Hymn 305 , verse 3:**

Enough for him, whom Cherubim  
Worship night and day  
A breast full of milk  
And a manger full of hay.  
Enough for him, whom angels  
Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel  
Which adore.

❖ **The Shepherd who stayed (iv)**

❖ **Hymn 305, verse 4:**

Angels and archangels  
May have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Thronged the air;  
But his mother only,  
In her maiden bliss,  
Worshipped the Beloved  
With a kiss.

❖ **The shepherd who stayed (v)**

❖ **Music in worship**

❖ **Meditation**

followed by silent reflection

## Response to God's Word

### ❖ Hymn 310:

- 1 See him lying on a bed of straw:  
a draughty stable with an open door;  
Mary cradling the babe she bore  
the prince of glory is his name.

*O now carry me to Bethlehem  
to see the Lord of love again:  
just as poor as was the stable then,  
the prince of glory when he came.*

- 2 Star of silver, sweep across the skies,  
show where Jesus in the manger lies;  
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise  
to see the saviour of the world!

*O now carry me to Bethlehem  
to see the Lord of love again:  
just as poor as was the stable then,  
the prince of glory when he came.*

3. Angels, sing again the song you sang,  
sing the glory of God's gracious plan;  
Sing that Beth'lem's little baby can  
be the saviour of us all.

*O now carry me to Bethlehem  
to see the Lord of love again:  
just as poor as was the stable then,  
the prince of glory when he came.*

4. Mine are riches, from your poverty,  
from your innocence, eternity;  
mine, forgiveness by your death for me,  
Child of sorrow for my joy.

*O now carry me to Bethlehem  
to see the Lord of love again:  
just as poor as was the stable then,  
the prince of glory when he came.*

### ❖ Prayers of Intercession

#### ❖ Dedication: Hymn 305, v.5:

What can I give him, poor as I am, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb,  
If I were a wise man I would play my part,  
Yet what I can, I give him: give my heart.

#### ❖ Hymn 306:

1. 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;  
*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!*

- 2 God of God,  
Light of Light  
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb,  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created,  
*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!*

3. Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exaltation,  
sing all ye citizens of heaven above,  
'Glory to God  
in the highest':  
*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!*

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given:  
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!*

**Sending out with blessing** (followed by sung Amen)

**Postlude**