

2022 AT-HOME CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Paso Robles Community Church

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND MANY BLESSINGS!

Pray:

As we consider today of the birth of our Savior, God grant us a fresh awareness of what the birth of the Savior means for us collectively and individually. We savor the hope we have in Jesus. We find comfort knowing that He is the Prince of Peace. We embrace the love that He has lavished upon us. And, we count it all joy to be his children - redeemed and given new life for eternity. We receive your love Jesus, and we love you back.

Read: Luke 1:26-38

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

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.

³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He 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 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.

Sing: O Little Town of Bethlehem (or Sing Along with the video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kMih36CvZPo&list=PLN6ijTZWiYC-CKYbtMdyvYvcPFli34Zcy&index=20>

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And peace to men on earth

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His Heaven
No ear may hear His coming
But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive Him still
The dear Christ enters in

Where children pure and happy
Pray to the blessed Child
Where misery cries out to Thee
Son of the mother mild

Where charity stands watching
And faith holds wide the door
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks
And Christmas comes once more

O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born in us to-day
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel

Read: Luke 2:1-7

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Sing: Away In A Manger (or Sing Along with the video)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_gxgrAqxPcl

Away in a manger
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down His sweet head

The cattle are lowing
The Baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus
No crying He makes

Be near me, Lord Jesus
I ask You to stay
Close by me forever
And love me I pray

The stars in the bright sky
Looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay

I love You, Lord Jesus
Look down from the sky
And stay by my side
Until morning is nigh

Bless all the dear children
In Your tender care
And fit us for heaven
To live with You there

Read: Luke 2:8-20

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Christmas Reading - Billy Graham

Adapted from The Hour of Decision, Dec. 26, 1982, and "Christmas: A Time of Renewed Hope," by Billy Graham, ©1969, 1993 rev. 1999

On that first Christmas almost 2,000 years ago, the world experienced three phenomena:

First, the star. Many stars shone in the sky, but none like this one. This one shone with aura and brilliance! It was as though God had taken a lamp from the ceiling of heaven and hung it in the dark sky over a troubled world.

Second, a new song in the air. A world that had lost its song learned to sing again. With the coming of God in the flesh, hope sprang in the hearts of people. Led by angelic beings, the world took up the refrain, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2:14).

And third, the good news—the Good News that at last a Savior had come to save men and women from sin: "You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). Jesus was the central theme of that first Christmas. The star, the song, the gifts, the kneeling, the joy, the hope, the excitement—all were because of Him.

God's star promised peace to the world if we will believe and trust Him. But, having rejected Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, we have no peace in the world. Too often our synthetic stars bring only fear, anxiety and even more war.

"There is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11), says the Scriptures. Heaven and earth joined together! God and mankind reconciled. Hope for the hopeless; pardon for the guilty; forgiveness for the conscience-stricken; peace for those who knew no peace; all good news for those who have had nothing but bad news!

We must share what God has given us. Christmas carries with it the idea of sharing with others. And the greatest need that the world has is that we share our love. There is no law anywhere in the world which says you can't love the person whom you work with or live beside, or someone of another race—and to love so much that you give. Love is not a passive word but an active word. Most people are looking for a little bit of love—true love.

What does Christmas mean to you? This Christmas, let it mean the birth of the Person of Jesus. He didn't come just to be born; He came to die. His death was planned before the foundation of the world. This was the message of the first Christmas night: "You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

When he was dying on that cross, God laid upon Him your sins and mine. Because of that cross and the glorious resurrection, God can say to us today, "I forgive you."

The Prophet Isaiah said, "'His name shall be called Immanuel' (which means, God with us)" (Cf. Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23). God revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus a reconciling love that rescues us from separation and loneliness.

At this Christmas season, you can be assured that Jesus Christ is here. He is here to give us hope, to forgive our sins, to give us a new song, to impart faith and to heal our spiritual wounds, if only we will let Him. You can go to bed tonight and know that your sins are forgiven and that you are ready to meet God.

Jesus said that there are two roads from which to choose, the broad road or the narrow road; that there are two masters from which to choose, self or Christ. And it is up to us to make the choice. God has given us that marvelous ability to choose. May God help you to choose Jesus Christ.

Sing: Joy To The World (or Sing Along with the video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TX6ThHbts5Y>

Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let Earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

No more let sins and sorrow grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found
Far as, far as, the curse is found

Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders, of His love

Pray:

Thank you, God for sending Your Son on one glorious night to be born a virgin, to live a perfect life, and to die on the cross for my sins. Thank you that he rose from the dead three days later and that this Christmas and every Christmas we can celebrate the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Amen.