

**Redeemer Lutheran Church  
San Antonio, Texas**

**December 18, 2022  
Children's Christmas Message  
Fourth Sunday in Advent  
Responsive Prayer 2: Pg. 285-287**

NOTES: Offerings will not be collected by passing plates. Please place your attendance cards and offering in the plates located by the narthex.

Masks are not required, but you can wear one at your own discretion. There is no specified seating for bible class or worship.

**Prelude**

**Opening Prayer:**

**Hymn:**

“Oh Come, All Ye Faithful” – LSB # 379

**Maggie:**

It was the day that changed the world forever. Christmas began in the heart of God. He had a plan to live among His people and to provide a deliverer who would free them from bondage. Before the first Christmas there were struggles and hopelessness among the people. Life was going on as usual with expectations for the long-promised Messiah. For some there was a patient longing for a deliverer. Others had been waiting so long they had become apathetic about God's promise to send a Messiah.

God's given promise of the Messiah Out of Bethlehem will come a ruler over Israel. He will stand and shepherd his

flock in the strength of the Lord and they will live securely, and He will be their peace. What wonderful news this must have been to ears that had been deafened for so long. The Savior, the true ruler of the world, had come and through Him, hope and peace and freedom were brought to all who recognized Him. His was to be a power that would overcome and conquer the mightiest of earthly rulers, and his was to be a kingdom that would bring peace forever.

**Amelia:**

The virgin Mary was quietly going about her daily chores, perhaps washing the breakfast dishes, or idly sweeping the floor while daydreaming about her own marriage to Joseph. An angel went to her and said "Greetings, you are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at the angel's words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son and are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David and will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.'

"How will this be' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?' The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon 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. Even Elizabeth you relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God. "I am the

Lord's servant,' Mary answered. May it be to me as you have said.' Then the angel left her." (**Luke 1: 26-38**)

**Hymn:**

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” – LSB # 357

**Mark:**

Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. "But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.' "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and they will call him Immanuel' which means, 'Go with us.' "When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife." (**Matthew 1;18-25**)

**Hymn:**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” – LSB # 361

**Maggie:**

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

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. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. Mary and Joseph had traveled many miles with only a donkey to help them on their way, Mary was ready to give birth, and Joseph was anxious to find a place for them to spend the night. The town was crowded, and the inns were all full and everyone was busy. They went from inn to inn and were turned away by everyone. Finally, at one of the inns, they told them they were full, but they saw Mary was ready to give birth. The innkeeper told them they could use the stable. Mary gave birth to the baby in the animal stable.

**Mark:**

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

Suddenly a great company of heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.'

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." (**Luke 2:8-15**)

**Hymn:**

“Angels We Have Heard on High” – LSB # 368

**Amelia:**

Soon Joseph moved the shepherds away from the stable so Mary and the baby could rest. Mary spoke to the baby, "My tiny child why do I feel you don't really belong to us? Although you are the child of my womb, I feel as though you belong to someone else. It's so hard to understand. Is my baby truly the heir to King David's throne? It's hard to believe such things of my own child. Yet all this seems to say that the Almighty has chosen you for this great work. Will you grow up to be the Prince of Peace? Any mother would hope so for her son, and I hope so for you. Yet I fear the thought of it. The Messiah will belong more to the world than to his mother. Oh, my precious, tiny baby, what an awesome future awaits you"! Good night, my sweet. It is calm and quiet and safe here in the stable. Rest well.

**Hymn:**

“Once in Royal David's City” – LSB # 376

**Mark:**

Joseph had a plan. Marriage at the right age, to the right kind of woman, and children to follow, all in the proper sequence and at the right time. Mary willingly took on the role of being Jesus' mother, but Joseph seemed to be a little harder to convince. He really did not want to change his plans or his life to accommodate this unexpected child. So

he planned to do the honorable thing, according to the custom in his time, by sending both Mary and Jesus away quietly. After all what would people say? Why should Joseph love this child who was not his? But God had another plan, and He made sure that Joseph understood the plan in no uncertain terms. This was His own beloved Son, and He chose to give Jesus to this family. Joseph went to bed in uncertainty, turmoil, and fear and woke with a vision of what his family was to be. Helped along by an angel, Joseph's fears vanished. His uncertainty got a name, and Joseph would soon be able to say, "This is God's Son. This is Jesus.

**Hymn:**

“Joy to the World” – LSB # 387

**Children's Poetry:**

**Hymn:**

“Go Tell It on the Mountain” – LSB # 388

**Comments:**

**Announcements:**

**Postlude**

**\* Please take the bulletin home or discard in trash before you leave. \***