



Fairfield Good News

WORSHIPPING THE LORD FOR 300 YEARS!

December 2021

December

Sunday, Dec. 5

Communion

Monday, Dec. 6

Consistory Meeting

Prayer Meeting

Tuesdays, Dec. 7
& 14

Bible Study

Wednesdays, Dec. 8,
15 & 22

Christmas Eve

Service,
Friday, Dec. 24

January

Sunday, Jan. 2

Sanctity of Human
Life Sunday

Committee reports
due

Monday, Jan. 3

Consistory Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 9

Congregational
Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 23

Return BBB bottles

O, Come, Let Us Adore Him

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

One of our favorite Christmas carols, "O, Come, All Ye Faithful," goes back hundreds of years, perhaps to a Cistercian monastery. Often known by its Latin title, *Adeste Fideles* ("Come, faithful people"), this hymn is a call for God's faithful, joyous people to contemplate the "King of Angels" in Bethlehem's manger. The first verse puts out the invitation.

"O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

The chorus, repeated again and again, calls us to adore Him -- that is, to be fond of, to regard with loving admiration and devotion, and ultimately, to worship Him and honor Him as divine.

"O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord."

The second verse of the Latin hymn doesn't appear in many Protestant hymnals, but extols Christ as the incarnate God, using phrases drawn from the ancient Nicene Creed. Most people today -- even many Christians -- look at the baby in the manger as a sweet Christ figure, but not really as God in Person. Verse 2 reminds us that even in the manger -- especially in the manger -- this baby is God himself in human flesh -- "Very God of Very God."

Verse 3 invites the angel chorus, the mighty angel army that appeared to the shepherds outside of Bethlehem, to join us in adoration.

"Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!
Glory to God, glory in the highest...."

The angel host must have felt at home worshipping before the throne of God. But when called to an obscure Judean hillside, they must have wondered what all the fuss was about. Then, it hit them. They were called to celebrate the coming of God to earth, incarnate in a newborn baby. They sang their hearts out, and we are invited to do the same.

Verse 4 is a welcome, a greeting to the newborn King.

"Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing...."

(cont'd pg 2)

The last line recalls the first lines of John's Gospel, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1) John observes, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). And so we proclaim in song, "Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!"

When we sing "O, Come, All Ye Faithful," we are reaffirming that the baby in Bethlehem's manger is indeed God in human flesh, Christ the Lord.

This morning, in the church where I worship, we sang the chorus over and over as we worshipped, our voices joining with those of monks of long ago, of believers throughout the ages, and the angel chorus that appeared on Christmas morning on the hills of Bethlehem.

"O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord."

He is worthy of all our praise!

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December

19 Jeremy Boling

22 Sarah Petersen Basile

January 2

Emily Petersen Perrine

Consistory Meetings

Mondays, December 6
and January 3

Friday, December 24 7:00 pm



Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

Eric Farrar will lead us in worship

Wednesday Night Bible Study



Adult
Classes

Will be held December 22

Canceled on December 29

Resumes on January 5

ADVENT

Sunday, November 28 was the First Sunday of Advent: HOPE

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit"

(Romans 15:13).

Sunday, December 5 is the Second Sunday of Advent: PEACE

We celebrate with a communion service. "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"

(Isaiah 9:6).

Sunday, December 12 is the Third Sunday of Advent: JOY

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Sunday, December 19 is the Fourth Sunday of Advent: LOVE

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Service - 7:00 PM

At our church, Fairfield Reformed Eric Farrar will bring the message.

Saturday, December 25 = Christmas Day

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5).

Samaritan's Purse . . .

is asking for help to resettle refugee families recently evacuated from Afghanistan. If you would like to get more information, click on the web link below.

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/>

Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 9

in sanctuary following worship

ALL are encouraged to attend this important meeting

re: the life of our church



IMPORTANT: All committee reports are due no later than Sunday, Jan. 2, in order to be distributed prior to the meeting!!

Sanctity
OF HUMAN
LIFE SUNDAY
2022



We will again participate in Baby Bottle Boomerang with First Choice Women's Resource Ctr. this year. There will be plastic baby bottles to fill with your change given out on Sunday, January 2nd at church BUT you can also use a jar you have at home. We will turn in our offerings on Sunday, January 23rd. There are new laws regarding abortion so protection for the unborn is more important than ever.

- I asked my wife what she wanted for Christmas. She told me that nothing would make her happier than a diamond necklace. So I bought her nothing.
- What do you call a snowman who vacations in the tropics? A puddle.
- Why did the snowman turn yellow? Ask the little boy over there.
- The three stages of man: He believes in Santa Claus. He doesn't believe in Santa Claus. He *is* Santa Claus.

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Christmas Shopping: Wouldn't it be wonderful to find one gift that you didn't have to dust, that had to be used right away, that was practical, fit everyone, was personal and would be remembered for a long time? I penciled in "Gift certificate for a flu shot". Erma Bombeck

*Anyone who believes that men are the equal of women has never seen a man trying to wrap a Christmas present. Unknown*

*People are so worried about what they eat between Christmas and the New Year, but they really should be worried about what they eat between the New Year and Christmas. Unknown*

*Consistory's prayer for you and your loved ones is that you know hope that pushes out fear, peace that passes all understanding, joy that fills your heart and the assurance of God's love and presence in your life especially during these trying times.*

*Wishing you a blessed Christmas and happy, healthy new year.*

