



ADVENT VESPERS

December 11th

ADVENT GATHERINGS

Join us this season as we reflect upon the incarnation and life of our Lord Jesus.

Advent Vespers

December 4th
6:30pm | Auditorium

Advent Vespers

December 11th
6:30pm | Auditorium

Cookies and Caroling

December 15th
2pm | Haven at Lakewood

Advent Vespers

December 18th
6:30pm | Auditorium

Christmas Sunday Services

December 22nd
9:30am or 11am | Auditorium

Christmas Eve Services

December 24th
4pm or 6pm | Auditorium

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Phil. 2:6–11

SONG | HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy
mild God and sinners
reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise join
the triumph of the skies

With angelic hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King

Hail the heav'n born Prince
of Peace hail the Son of
righteousness
Light and life to all He brings
risen with healing in His wings
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to
dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel
Hark the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King

Christ by highest heav'n
adored Christ the everlasting
Lord
Late in time behold Him come
offspring of a virgin's womb
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 newborn King

¹ Adapted from, *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*; Gibson

READING OF THE LAW

Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven...You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect... Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven... Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you... So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Matt. 5:20, 48; 6:1, 33; 7:12

CONFESSION OF SIN

Lord God, help us to consider the way, the new and living way, in which a fallen creature can approach you with acceptance. May we behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. May we contemplate the dignity of his person, the perfection of his sacrifice, and the efficacy of his intercession, who is the Great High Priest over the house of God. And may we feel the distance between you and us done away, and rejoice that now, in Christ Jesus, we, who at one time were afar off, are made nigh by the blood of Christ. Amen.

- William Jay

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. But I will save them from all the backslidings in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

Ezek. 37:23

**THE WESTMINSTER
CONFESSION OF FAITH
ARTICLE 8**

Of Christ the Mediator

It pleased God, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son, to be the Mediator between God and man, the Prophet, Priest, and King, the Head and Savior of his church, the Heir of all things, and Judge of the world: unto whom he did from all eternity give a people, to be his seed, and to be by him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.

The Son of God, the second person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance and equal with the Father, did, when the fullness of time was come, take upon him man's nature, with all the essential properties, and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin; being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the virgin Mary, of her substance.

So that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion.

Which person is very God, and very man, yet one Christ, the only Mediator between God and man.

SONG | DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom
all blessings flow
Praise Him, all
creatures here below
Praise Him above,
ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son,
and Holy Ghost

Let earth and heavenly
saints proclaim
The power and might
of His great Name
Let us exalt on bended knee
Praise God the holy Trinity

Praise to the King
His throne transcends
His crown and Kingdom
never end
Now and throughout eternity
I'll praise the One Who
died for me

Praise God from whom
all blessings flow
Praise Him, all
creatures here below
Praise Him above,
ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son,
and Holy Ghost, Amen.

DEVOTIONAL²

“Word of the Father”

Yea, Lord we greet Thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesus to Thee be all glory
given; Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing! O
come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

Jn. 1:1–14

- Jesus didn't become human for a short stint while here on earth, but will bear our human nature for all of eternity. Why does this comfort the Christian?

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Dear Jesus, You are above and beyond us in every way. You were at the beginning and before the beginning. By You all things were made. But you were also made flesh, to redeem us from sin. Jesus, to You be all glory given, from now on and for all eternity! Amen.

² Sing in Exultation!; Cruse

**SONG | O COME, ALL YE
FAITHFUL**

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

Sing choirs of angels,
sing in exultation
O sing all ye bright Hosts
of heav'n above
Glory to God, all glory in
the highest

Yea Lord we greet Thee
born this happy morning
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n
Word of the Father now in
flesh appearing

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name. Your
kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Now to him who is able to do
far more abundantly than all
that we ask or think,
according to the power at
work within us, to him be
glory in the church and in
Christ Jesus throughout all
generations, forever and
ever. Amen.

Eph. 3:20–21

FOR FURTHER MEDITATION

Snappy Quote

Man's Maker was made man,
that He, Ruler of the stars,
might nurse at His mother's
breast; that the Bread might
hunger, the Fountain thirst,
the Light sleep, the Way be
tired on its journey; that the
Truth might be accused of
false witness, the Teacher be
beaten with whips, the
Foundation be suspended on
wood; that Strength might
grow weak; that the Healer
might be wounded; that Life
might die.

- Augustine

