IN CELEBRATION OF CHRIST’S COMING
December 24, 2017
Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Smiths Mills

BELL

HYMN # 55 - Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

OPENING SERVICE
M: O Lord, open my lips. 
C: And my mouth shall declare your praise. 
M: Hasten to save me, O God. 
C: O Lord, come quickly to help me. 
M: Unto us the Christ is born: let us worship him.

SERMONETTE: Micah 5:2 - What Child Is This?

HYMN # 23 vv 1,2 - Oh, Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel

I. THE CELEBRATION BEGINS
P: Our Christmas begins during the weeks of Advent before Christmas. Advent means coming. For ages before the Savior was born, God’s people were looking for his coming. They remembered what God had told the serpent, Satan, in Eden about the Redeemer who would defeat him. The Savior would be born of a woman:
C: “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”
P: More than two thousand years later, God told Abraham that this Savior would be born of his descendants:
C: “I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

SONG: When God Created

P: The Savior would come in God’s special way. Seven hundred years before it happened, God said through his prophet Isaiah:
C: “The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”
P: Isaiah also prophesied: “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.
C: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
P: The prophet Micah foretold:
C: “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

SONG: O Holy Night

II. THE CELEBRATION AT THE MANGER
Pastor: Many years passed. God’s people continued to wait and pray for the promised Savior. When the time for his coming was near, God sent the angel Gabriel to a young woman named Mary.

SONG: In Nazareth

Pastor: Mary was pledged to marry a man named Joseph. When he found out she was with child, he wanted to divorce her. But it was the will of God that they should be married, so God sent an angel to Joseph in a dream. Joseph did not divorce Mary but did as the Lord commanded him. Now everything was ready for that wonderful night when Christ would be born.

SONGS: In Those Days
Joseph Went Up

HYMN # 65 vv 1,2 - O Little Town of Bethlehem

SONG: To Bethlehem They Came

SONGS: Away In A Manger
And There Were Shepherds
RESPONSIVE READING
P: When they had seen him,
C: they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,
P: and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.
C: But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. (Luke 2:17-19)

SONG: The Shepherds Returned

HYMN # 62 vv 1,2 - Joy to the World
P: On this joyous day, let us remember that our Savior was born for all people. God tells us in 1 John 2:2:
C: “He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”
P: Let us remember those who do not yet know Christ and tell them of God’s love.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS
CHRISTMAS PRAYER and THE LORD’S PRAYER

BLESSING
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