

Luke 2:15-18

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

Hymn: #277 "Away in a Manger"

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay. The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes, but the little Lord Jesus no crying he makes. I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 **Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

Luke 2:19

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

Hymn: #279 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

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 wond'ring love. Oh morning stars, together, proclaim the holy birth.
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n. No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Christmas Homily-

Responsive Prayer (*stand as you are able*)

Glory to God in the highest

And peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

Amen.

OFFERING

(The children are invited to collect dollar bills and change for the mission jug offering.)

SPECIAL MUSIC *Sing We Now of Christmas*

Karen VanWert-bells

Pam DeVries-piano

Offertory Prayer (*please stand as you are able*)

Our thanks be to God, the Creator, who brings us all that we have.

Our thanks be to God, the Savior, who gives us back our lives.

Our thanks be to God, the Spirit, who keeps us close by God's side.

O Lord of all, take what we offer you, our gifts of self and time and goods.

Use them for your will, for they are yours.

Thanks be to God!

Holy Communion

Great Thanksgiving pg 107

The Lord's Prayer pg 112



