



# First Christian Reformed Church of Lynden

## From Generation to Generation for the Glory of God

### *Advent Devotional 2020*

*Galatians 4:4-5* But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

The word advent encompasses several meanings, such as anticipation, expectation, coming, longing, desire, waiting, hope of promises fulfilled. We will explore some of these themes in these advent devotionals. Today's devotional looks at the Advent promises made about the Virgin Mary.

### Scripture

**Genesis 3:15** I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

**Isaiah 7:10-15** Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: <sup>11</sup> "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." <sup>13</sup> And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

**Matthew 1:18-25** Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**Luke 1:26-38** In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

## **Song**

*Psalm 59:16 But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.*

[You can Google the hymn to hear it if you would like to sing along.]

### ***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 th'angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain:* Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel. *[Refrain]*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth. *[Refrain]*

Come, Desire of nations, come!  
Fix in us Thy humble home:  
Rise, the woman's conqu'ring seed,  
Bruise in us the serpent's head;  
Adam's likeness now efface,  
Stamp Thine image in its place:  
Final Adam from above,  
Reinstate us in Thy love. *[Refrain]*

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## **Prayer**

*II Chronicles 7:14 If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

Holy Father, long ago you said you would be our God and we would be your people. Even though we have been unfaithful in countless ways, you remain true to your covenant promises. When you sent your Son to earth you said He would be called Immanuel, God with us. Truly you are from everlasting to everlasting, the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, without change.

Thank you for invading our broken, sinful world that deserved only judgment. Thank you for first coming down to earth so you could give us a path back to you, to being reconciled with the Father through the sacrifice of the Son. Thank you for becoming one with us so we could become one with you.

Thank you for loving us so much that you were willing to humble yourself and become like us and to identify with us in the flesh, for taking on our very nature, becoming like us in every way except our sin.

Thank you that when a sacrifice was needed you became that sacrifice, when a life was needed you laid down yours. Jesus, you are the incarnate God. No one else in all human history has done what you have done.

Thank you for choosing Mary to be your vessel for coming to earth and for her willingness when she said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." Teach us to have that response to whatever you call us to do. All glory to you our newborn King, Amen.