

Opening Music

Christmas Candlelight Service

December 23, 2016

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Luke 1:26–38 Angel

Appears to Mary

²⁶ In the sixth month the
angel Gabriel was sent from

God to a city of Galilee
named Nazareth,²⁷ to a
virgin betrothed to a man
whose name was Joseph, of
the house of David. And the
virgin's name was Mary.²⁸
And he came to her and said,
“Greetings, O favored one,
the Lord is with you!”²⁹ But
she was greatly troubled at
the saying, and tried to
discern what sort of greeting

this might be. ³⁰ And the
angel said to her, “Do not be
afraid, Mary, for you have
found favor with God. ³¹

And behold, you will
conceive in your womb and
bear a son, and you shall call
his name Jesus. ³² 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, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ 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. ³⁶ 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. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ 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.

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Matthew 1:18–25 Angel

Appears to Joseph

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ 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.²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name

Immanuel” (which means, God with us).²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife,²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

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Luke 1:46–56 Mary’s Song of Praise

⁴⁶ And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy

is his name. ⁵⁰ And his
mercy is for those who fear
him from generation to
generation. ⁵¹ He has shown
strength with his arm; he has
scattered the proud in the
thoughts of their hearts; ⁵² he
has brought down the
mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble
estate; ⁵³ he has filled the
hungry with good things,

and the rich he has sent
away empty.⁵⁴ He has
helped his servant Israel, in
remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his
offspring forever.”⁵⁶ And
Mary remained with her
about three months and
returned to her home.

--Ignite Candles

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Luke 2:1–8 The Birth of Jesus

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be

registered, each to his own town.⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her

to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

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Silent Night Holy Night

-- Extinguish Candles

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Luke 2:8-20 Angels

Appear to Shepherds

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them,

and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying

in a manger.”¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”¹⁵

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to

Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the

shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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Luke 2:21-35 Jesus Savior of the World

²¹ And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. ²²

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem

to present him to the Lord ²³
(as it is written in the Law of
the Lord, “Every male who
first opens the womb shall
be called holy to the Lord”)
²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice
according to what is said in
the Law of the Lord, “a pair
of turtledoves, or two young
pigeons.” ²⁵ Now there was a
man in Jerusalem, whose
name was Simeon, and this

man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.²⁶

And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to

do for him according to the custom of the Law,²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,

and for glory to your people Israel.”³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also),

so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

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Matthew 2:1-12 The Gifts of the Wise Men

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²

saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be

born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶ “ ‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’ ” ⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained

from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went

before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

¹¹ And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him.

Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense

and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

--Ignite Candles

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Joy to the world

– Extinguish Candles

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