

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

-ISAIAH 9:6

In this Advent series, we are reminded that Christ is born in us spiritually today and every day. He enters into us daily to strengthen and support us, save us and renew us. We are changed by his presence within us as we become more and more like him in the living of our lives.





And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

Genesis 12:2

God promises Abraham that an offspring from his line would bring blessing to all. When Jesus was born, that promise came true with an abundance.





Pieter Bruegel the Elder – The Census at Bethlehem (1566)

<u>Dose of Art #115: Pieter Bruegel the Elder – The Census at Bethlehem (1566) – Size Of Art</u>

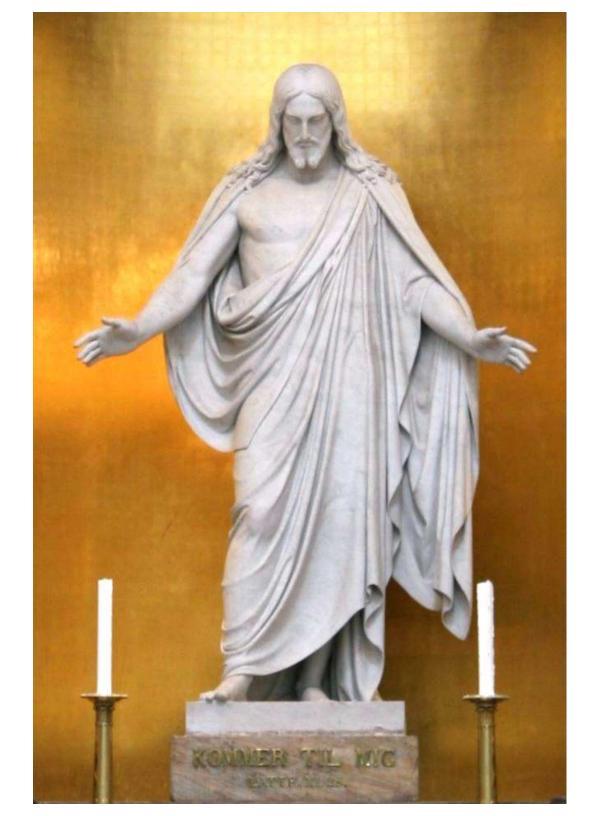


They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

The prophet Isaiah declared that a Holy One from God would be born into this world to bring renewal to all the faint and weary. Christ's birth restores our strength that we might serve him.





Christus (also known as Christus Consolator) is a 19th-century Carrara marble statue of the resurrected Jesus by Berte I Thorvaldsen.

Christus (statue) - Wikipedia

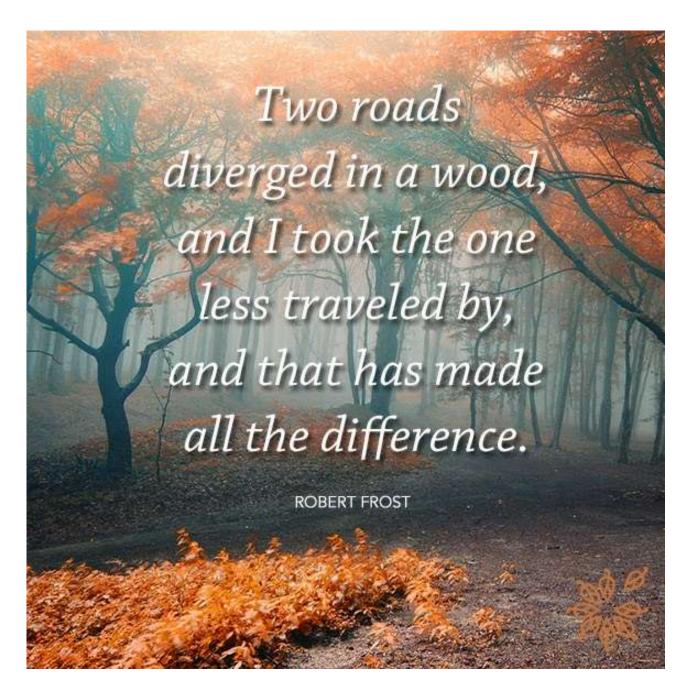


For you are my rock and my fortress; and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me.

Psalm 31:3

The children of Israel wandered in the desert for 40 years, doubting God's plan for them. With the arrival of Jesus, we have a clear path to the promised land of heaven through him who is the Way.





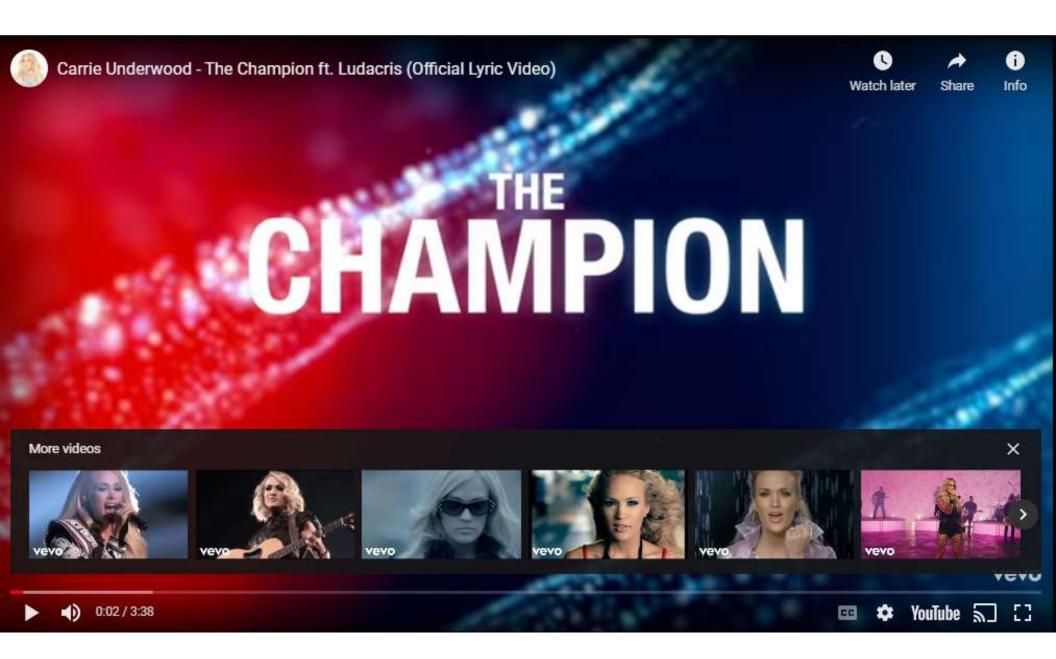
Does the road wind up-hill all the way? Yes, to the very end. Will the day's journey take the whole long day? From morn to night, my friend. But is there for the night a resting-place? A roof for when the slow dark hours begin. May not the darkness hide it from my face? You cannot miss that inn. Shall I meet other wayfarers at night? Those who have gone before. Then must I knock, or call when just in sight? They will not keep you standing at that door. Shall I find comfort. travel-sore and weak? Of labour you shall find the sum. Will there be beds for me and all who seek? Yea, beds for all who come. (Christina Rossetti, "Up-Hill," Goblin Market and Other Poems, Macmillan, 1862)



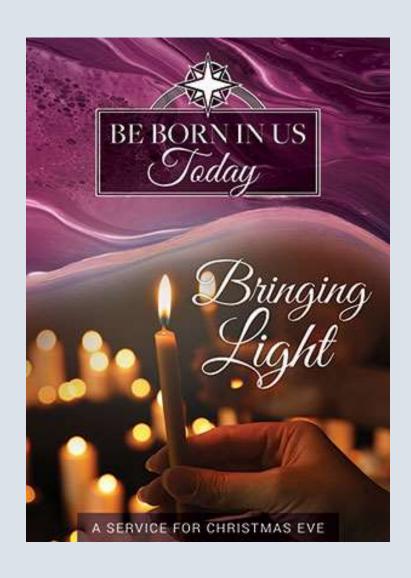
Your right hand, O
Lord, glorious in
power, your right
hand, O Lord,
shatters the enemy.
Exodus 15:6

John the Baptist pointed to the power of God present in Jesus Christ. As we prepare for the birth of baby Jesus, we point others to the power at work in our lives through our Emmanuel, God with us.





Christmas Eve



For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

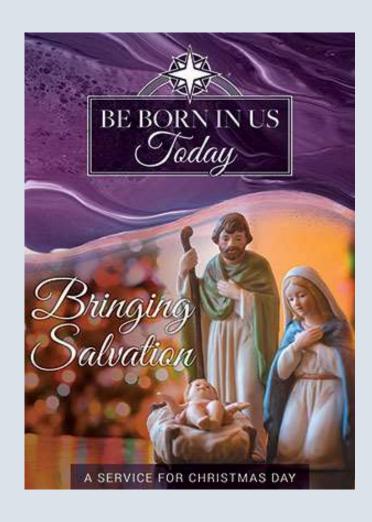
Luke 2:11



Caravaggio, Nativity with St. Francis and St. Lawrence – Renovate

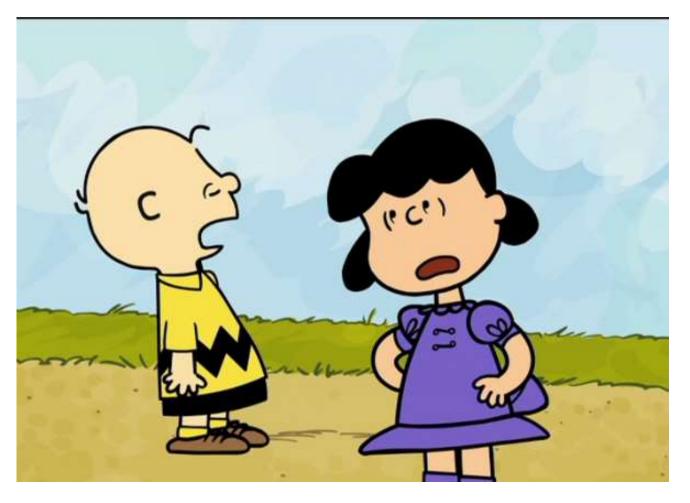
caravaggio nativity with st francis - Bing images

Christmas Day



Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

Psalm 85:7



I just want ups.

3535640 orig.png (853×480) (weebly.com)

In one of Charles Schultz's Peanuts cartoons, Lucy admits to Charlie Brown that she gets discouraged at times. Charlie makes the mistake of responding by saying, "Well, Lucy, life does have its ups and downs, you know." This sends Lucy into one of her tirades. "But why?" she asks. "Why can't my life be all ups? If I want all ups, why can't I have them? Why can't I move from one up to another up? Why can't I just go from an up to an upper-up?" She finally proclaims, "I don't want any downs. I just want ups, and ups, and ups!" Charlie, of course, responds, "I can't stand it!"



And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. Genesis 12:2

Actual
PowerPoint Slides
Coordinate with
Planning Guide in
Print &
Downloadable

Edit Texts
To Fit
Your
Needs
& Style



WEEK 1: BE BORN IN US TODAY BRINGING BLESSING

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Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation he doth bring;

therefore rejoice and To God the Fathe your joyful songs

The Opening Hymn is sung by the congregation to the tune Milwaukee 88 88 88 66, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.

The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Life and salvation he doth bring; therefore rejoice and gladly sing.

To God the Father raise your joyful songs of praise.

A righteous Helper comes to thee; his chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, his scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe he brings; therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise your grateful hymns of praise.

How blest the land, the city blest, where Christ the ruler is confessed!

O peaceful hearts and happy homes to whom this King in triumph comes!

The cloudless sun of joy is he who comes to set his people free.

To God the Spirit raise your happy shouts of praise.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in and new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise for word and deed and grace!



Invocation and Call to Worship

Invocation and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

(The first k

We light the first rejoice in the blessir birth of our Savior Jo through one of his a earth shall be bless

- The Invocation and Lighting of the Advent Wreath are spoken responsively by
- P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

(The first blue or purple candle is lit.)

- P We light the first candle on the Advent wreath as we rejoice in the blessings that have come to us through the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. God told Abraham that through one of his descendants "all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:3).
- Holy Child of Bethlehem, you were born among us to live and die and rise in fulfillment
- P The promised descendant of Abraham, Jesus Christ, is a blessing for people of all nations who trust in him for salvation. "So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the



Confession and Absolution

- P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.
- C Lord God, we are blessed with your love and salvation, but we do not always live as your people. We turn away from your Word and ways to follow our own selfish desires.

We listen to the temptations of the world around us. We do

not share with others the mercy on us and forgive

- The Confession and Absolution is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:
- P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.
- Lord God, we are blessed with your love and salvation, but we do not always live as your people. We turn away from your Word and ways to follow our own selfish desires. We listen to the temptations of the world around us. We do not share with others the blessings we have received. Have mercy on us and forgive us.
- P God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the blessing for the nations, to atone for the sins of the world. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
- (Romans 4:7). "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered"

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; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

The Hymn is sung by the congregation to the tune St. Louis 86 86 76 86, or a
selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the
music guide for this service can be sung instead:

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;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!



Prayer of the Day

- The Prayer of the Day is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:
- P Almighty God and Father, through the gift of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, you fulfilled your promise to Abraham, that one of his descendants would be a blessing for all nations. Jesus, the Holy Child of Bethlehem, was born among us to bring us the blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation through faith in his name. Give us opportunities to use our earthly blessings to help those in need and empower us by your Spirit to be bold witnesses to our Savior, so that others will come to know the blessing of faith in Jesus. Hear our prayer and accept our grateful praise in his holy name. Amen.

Once he came in blessing, all our sins redressing; Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy; Bore the cross to save us; hope and freedom gave us.

The Hymn is sung by the congregation to the tune Gottes Sohn Ist Kommen 66
66 66, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end
of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Come, then, O Lord Jesus, from our sins release us. Keep our hearts believing, that we, grace receiving, Ever may confess you till in heav'n we bless you.



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE OR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Sermon

The Children's Sermon is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

Needed: a gift-wrapped Christmas box; wrap the box and lid separately so it is easy to open; place a small manger figure of Baby Jesus inside the wrapped box

P In just a few weeks, it will be Christmas! I look forward to singing Christmas hymns and carols and getting together with friends and family to celebrate. What do you like best about celebrating Christmas? (Let children share their favorite Christmas activities.) One of the Christmas activities that we all enjoy is giving and receiving presents! I have a small present here. Let's open it and see what's inside. (Let one of the children open the box and take out the Baby Jesus figure.) We look forward to finding all kinds of gifts under the Christmas tree, but the best gift we will ever receive is the gift of Jesus our Savior.

But there are even more gifts at Christmas, because Jesus came to bring gifts to us! What does Jesus bring us? (Let children suggest gifts.) Those are all good answers. Jesus brings us his blessings. We are blessed because Jesus came to die on the cross so that our sins are forgiven. We are blessed because Jesus came to give us eternal life. We will live forever with our Savior. When we have so many blessings from God, we can share our blessings with others. We can tell other people about Jesus and the gifts that he brings. Then we will be a blessing to others!

Let's pray: Jesus, you were born in Bethlehem to bring us the blessings of forcing



The angel Gabriel from heaven came, with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame: "All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady." Gloria!

The Hymn is sung by the congregation to the tune Gottes Sohn Ist Kommen 66
66 66, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end
of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Come, then, O Lord Jesus, from our sins release us. Keep our hearts believing, that we, grace receiving, Ever may confess you till in heav'n we bless you.



READINGS

Old Testament Reading Genesis 12:1-8

Epistle Reading Romans 4:1-8

Gospel Reading Luke 1:39-56



READINGS

 The Gospel Reading, Luke 1:39-56, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

P In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she

en of

 The Epistle Reading, Romans 4:1-8, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

wc be

P What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if

joy he:

Now to one was right

Abrah

as righte

 The Old Testament Reading, Genesis 12:1-8, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord.

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame: "All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady." Gloria!

 The Sermon Hymn is sung by the congregation to the tune Gabriel's Message 10 10 11 73, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame: "All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady." Gloria!

"For know a blessèd mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee; Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said. "My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name." Most highly favored lady. Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn, And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: "Most highly favored lady." Gloria!



Sermon, 10-15 Minutes

The Sermon is delivered by the pastor:

Theme verse: [Now the LORD said to Abram:] "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing." Genesis 12:2

Imagine that two friends of yours are attending a Packers Game at Lambeau Field. The game is televised, and you have the game on at home. You know your friends are there in person, and wonder if by chance you might spot them somewhere near the fifty yard line in the crowd of 80,000. What are the odds? Then suddenly there they are! A camera pans across the crowd and settles on them long enough that you recognize them. It is an amazing moment. You shout out the many and the two!

It's easy to get lost in a crowd. As in the old Where's Waldo? books, it can be hard to find the one among the many. In the holy history of God and humanity known as the Bible, God is more than pretty good at finding someone in a crowd. Four millennia ago God found a tribal chief named Abram from among all the nations and people groups on earth. God singled this leader out of the crowd and promised to bless him. Such a blessing God gave Abram that it



Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today;
Prepare to greet the Savior, who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone the truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven to all the world is shown.

The Hymn of Response is sung by the congregation to the tune Aus Meines
Herzens Grunde 76 76 67 76, or a selection from the contemporary music song
suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today;
Prepare to greet the Savior, who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone the truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven to all the world is shown.

Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; turn not from me aside, And help me to receive you this blessed Adventtide. From stall and manger low come now to dwell within me; I'll sing your praises gladly and forth your glory show.



Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the cor • The Apostles' Creed is spoken in unison by the congregation:

sins, the resurrection of Amen.

- of caints, the forgiveness of
- @ I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

Offering

 The Offering is collected at this time. If desired, this Mini Movie (purchased by you from Worship House Media: worshiphousemedia.com) is presented on a screen at this time for reflection on the theme of the service:

worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/76649/blessed-assurance



Prayers

- P Lord and Savior, have mercy on those who are suffering through illness and loss. Watch over them and comfort them through the promises of your holy Word. Lead us as we seek ways to help and serve those in need so that we might share our blessings with them. Holy Child of Bethlehem,
- C Be born in us today. As we have been blessed through your birth, help us to bless others in your name.
 - The Prayers are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:
 - P Lord and Savior, have mercy on those who are suffering through illness and loss. Watch over them and comfort them through the promises of your holy Word. Lead us as we seek ways to help and serve those in need so that we might share our blessings with them. Holy Child of Bethlehem,



Benediction

- "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
- For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
- and holy is his name" (Lu
- P "The Lord bless you a shine on you and be grac countenance upon you a Amen.
- 1.16-18
- The assembly may remain standing if the Lord's Supper is celebrated. The words of institution or another Eucharistic prayer may be used here, then the Lord's Prayer, then the communion at the table. If the Lord's Supper is not celebrated,
- The Lord's Prayer is spoken in unison at this time.
- The Benediction is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:
- P "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the
- For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name" (Luke 1:46-48).

Come, thou precious Ransom, come, only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world!
Open are to thee all portals.

Come, anxiou

 The Closing Hymn is sung by the congregation to the tune Meinem Jesum Lass' Ich Nicht (Darmstadt) 78 78 77, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Come, thou precious Ransom, come, only hope for sinful mortals!

Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to thee all portals.

Come, thy beauty let us see; anxiously we wait for thee.

Enter now my waiting heart, glorious King and Lord most holy.

Dwell in me and ne'er depart, though I am but poor and lowly.

Ah, what riches will be mine when thou art my guest divine!

Hail! Hosanna, David's Son! Jesus, hear our supplication!

Let thy kingdom, scepter, crown, bring us blessing and salvation,

That forever we my sing: Hail! Hosanna to our King.



COMMUNICATIONS

WEEK 1: BE BORN IN US TODAY BRINGING BLESSING

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

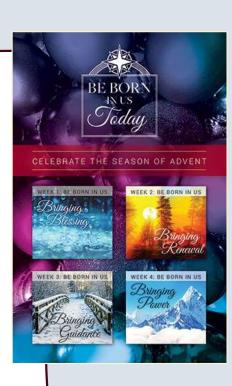
Join us for the Be Born in Us Today special service for the First Week of Advent, a season when we are reminded of the birth of Christ. In this service, we recall that God promised Abraham that an offspring from his line would bring blessing to all. That offspring was Jesus. And he is born in us today.

BULLETIN NOTICE

In this first service in our Be Born in Us Today series for Advent, we recall that God promised Abraham that an offspring from his line would bring blessing to all. That offspring was Jesus.

And he is born in us today.

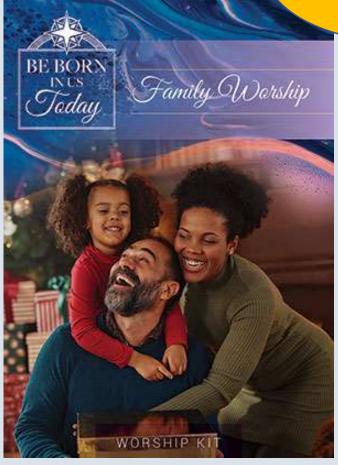
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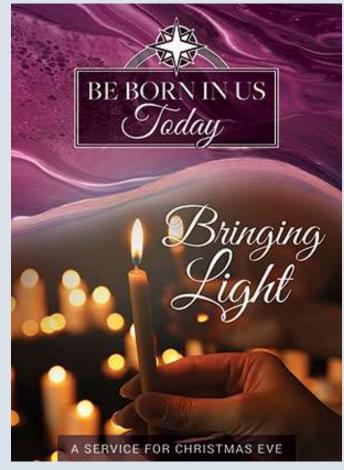


Traditional Worship Series BBT1

Present a
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Thematic Advent
Experience

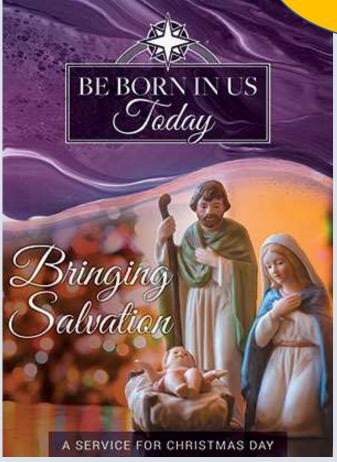


Family Worship Series
BBTN
Perfect for Mid-Week or
Family Friendly Service



Christmas Eve Kit BBT18

Present a
Comprehensive
Thematic Advent
Experience



Christmas Day Kit BBT19

Present a
Comprehensive
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Experience

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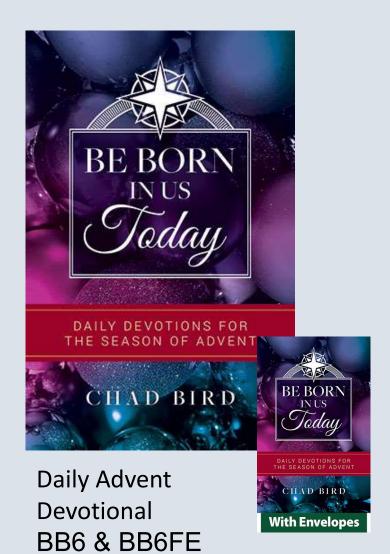
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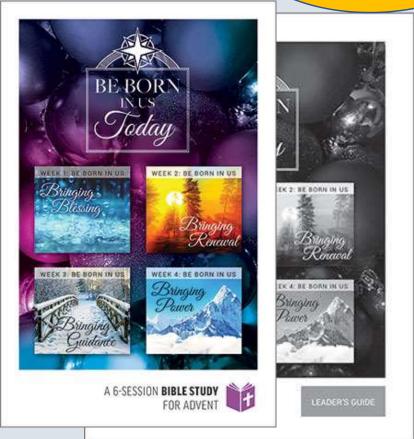
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1	1	Christmas Eve Kit (BBT18)
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1	1	Poster (BBT1PR)
50	50	Biblical Bookmarks (BKBV)
40	20	Sticker Booklets (GG5)

Also Sold Separately



Present a
Comprehensive
Thematic Advent
Experience





Bible Study BBSG & BBLG



Daily Bible Readings for the First Week of Advent

The brand's of the

The Bearing Guidance

> Daily Bible Readings for the Third Week of Advent

A plan of advetice is recorbil.

Einter in God rece in veg eurabon. Firely (3.11.13) The Lord Tirels we seet of deep waters

Wednesder Poster 27 (1-18 Sock the teachings of God. Thursday 1 old 105.70 Find power in the way of Gold.

Markey 2.1.12 Toront to be with from:

National Resident (13-15 Could be produce to the Lord.



for the Second Week of

Advent

Biblical Bookmark **BKBV**



Dally Bible Readings for the Fourth Week of Advent

Creating samucking from marking The the power God gives to hard store. English St. 20 Deall in strongth to grew in faith. Nodeculey Lake 1 (0.37) The power of the Most High is not as Univides ______Matthew 1-1-29 NON great neight cover a Note shift Briefey Lake 2:1-30 Glary to God in the highest

Susception John 2 S - 18 By help power we are God's children.



Everlasting Father, Prince of Peac

-ISAIAH 9:6

Present a Comprehensive Thematic Advent Experience

Poster BBT1PR

CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Insert BBT1BL



Present a
Comprehensive
Thematic Advent
Experience

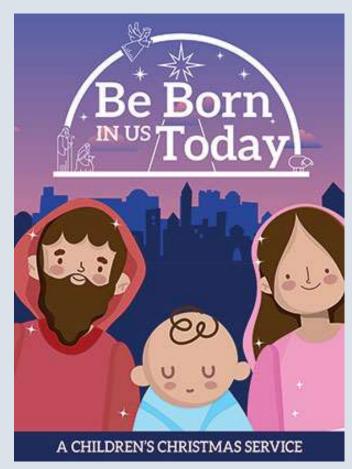


Good News: Great Joy -Sticker Book And Poster GG5

Present a
Comprehensive
Thematic Advent
Experience



Good News: Great Joy -Sticker Book And Poster GG5

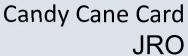


Children's Worship Service Or Program, (includes scripts) BBT17



Present a
Comprehensive
Thematic Advent
Experience

Christmas Magnet MLBZ







Metal Ornament ZER



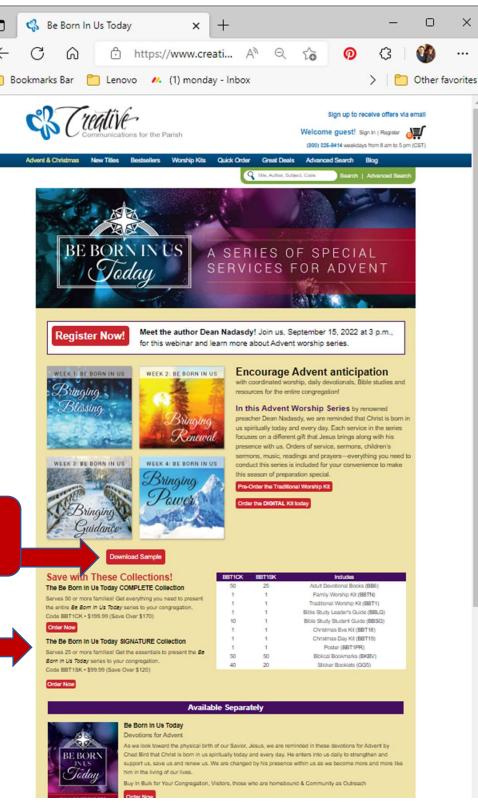


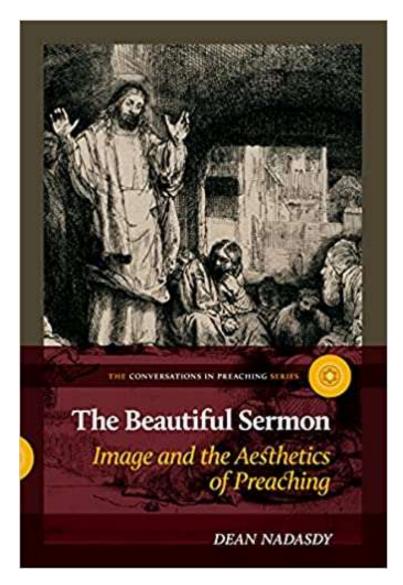
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seminary homiletics
professor, district president
of The Lutheran Church —



Missouri Synod and synodical vice president. He is currently adjunct professor of theology at Concordia University, Saint Paul. His most recent book, published in 2021, is titled, *The Beautiful Sermon: Image and the Aesthetics of Preaching*. He is a frequent presenter at pastoral conferences and enjoys writing poetry and choral lyrics.

<u>The Beautiful Sermon: Image and the Aesthetics of Preaching: Dean Nadasdy: 9780911770841: Amazon.com: Books</u>