



December 16, 2020

Noon

Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

**Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of
Christmas**

Opening Prayer

Who is like you, God Most High, drawing near to those who are low and in need to raise them up? In your Son Jesus, you entered human life for a time, that we might forever enter yours. May we sense you near us even now; through your Spirit, that we may take heart in our darkest and most fearful times, trusting that you abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 1: 22-25

All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23 ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel’, which means, ‘God is with us.’ 24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 25 but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Hebrews 1: 1-4, 4: 14-16

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. 3 He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Jesus the Great High Priest

14 Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our

confession. 15For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. 16Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Meditation

Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus, we acclaim you with many titles and names, but they all point us to your presence, power, and love. May we shine with your light not only at Christmas but at all times, in all our words and deeds. As you took on human flesh in a unique and decisive way so long ago, may you, in smaller but significant ways, take it on again in our flesh, that the world may see and give glory to God in heaven. Amen.

Blessing

The prayers for this service are from Adam Hamilton's study guide for his book, *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*.

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