



December 2, 2020

Noon

Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

**Incarnation:
Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas
Presidents and Kings**

Opening Prayer

God, Most High, who rules over all, you claim and call is all – despite our differences and disagreements – to be your Son’s followers. May your Spirit so fill our minds and hearts in this time of reflection that we understand and embody more fully what it means to praise the King of kings and Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Luke 1: 26-38

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.’ 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him 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 ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ 34 Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ 35 The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. 36 And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.’ 38 Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

Matthew 2: 1-2

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'

Meditation

Closing Prayer

Eternal God, through the ages your people have longed for a righteous ruler who will speed up the day your will is finally done on earth as in heaven. In Jesus, your Anointed One, you anointed us to do your will as citizens of your kingdom. By your Spirit, keep us strong and hopeful.

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