



December 9, 2020

Noon

Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

Incarnation:

Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas

The Savior and Our Need for Saving

Opening Prayer

Holy and righteous God, before you we can only admit our own unrighteousness and our world's deep brokenness. In gratitude, we praise you for giving your Son. In humility, we pray you will guide us now, by your Spirit, to live more fully and freely as God's forgiven people.

Scripture Reading **Matthew 1: 18-21**

8 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

Luke 2: 8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

Meditation

Closing Prayer

Jesus, I need you to save, rescue, deliver, and heal me. I trust in you as my Savior. Save me from my sin and from myself. Save me for you, and your purposes. Save me for your love and for your love. Save me from despair and give me hope. Help me to trust in your resurrection. Amen.

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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