

As With Gladness Men Of Old

Verse 1

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold
As with joy they hailed its light
Leading onward beaming bright
So most gracious Lord may we
Evermore be led to Thee

Verse 2

As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly cradle bed
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heav'n and earth adore
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat

Verse 3

As they offered gifts most rare
At that cradle bed rude and bare
So may we with holy joy
Pure and free from sin's alloy
All our costliest treasures bring
Christ to Thee our heav'nly King

Verse 4

Holy Jesus ev'ry day
Keep us in the narrow way
And when earthly things are past
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide
Where no clouds Thy glory hide

Verse 5

In the heav'nly country bright
Need they no created light
Thou its light its joy its crown
Thou its sun which goes not down
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional

First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren
December 29th, 2019
Fifth Day of Christmas

Morning Service:

John 8: 12

Jesus Came as the Light of the World

1. Jesus Reveals *the Father*—So We Can Love Him.
2. Jesus Reveals *Our Family*—So We Can Love One Another.
3. Jesus Reveals *Our Neighbors*—So We Can Love Them.

Christ has come as the Promised Light to reveal the truth about everything. It is His illuminating truth that reveals what we need to know about God, ourselves, and our neighbors. Jesus shows us how we are to live and gives us resurrection power by which to do what He has called us to do—love one another. This can only be accomplished by faith in Him.

Evening Service:

Luke 2: 33 – 38

Christmas According to Anna

1. God Has Been Faithful to His Promises.
2. Christ Brings the Redemption of Jerusalem.
3. His Coming Is Our Reason to Give Thanks.

Just as God promised to speak through Israel's sons and daughters He has given to Simeon and Anna the gift of the Savior to proclaim. He no less invites us to that same blessing and privilege. Let us proclaim Him!

The Season of Christmas—December 29 – January 4

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Sunday AM

READ **John 8:12; Isaiah 60:1-19**. DISCUSS, What does God promise Israel? Why? How does that relate to Christ's birth? THANK God for His promises and His forever faithfulness.

Sunday PM

READ **Luke 2:33-38, Joel 2:28-29**. DISCUSS, What does God give us to talk about? THANK God for giving us the Redemption of Jerusalem.

Monday

READ aloud **First Timothy 1:12-14** [Jesus came]. DISCUSS why Jesus came into the world. SING your favorite Christmas carol. PRAISE the Lord for your salvation and close by praying together: "Holy Messiah, promised Savior, we worship You and adore You. Teach us both the depth of our sin without You and the height of our acceptance by the Father with You. Give us repentant hearts and open hands to love those around us who are in need of You. Amen."

Tuesday

READ aloud **Titus 2:11-14** [Grace appeared] and discuss how Christ's appearing teaches us to live. SING your favorite Christmas carol from these pages or another source. Closing prayer to be read in unison: "Father God, thank You for bringing us salvation. We know that we cannot save ourselves. Thank You for taking us as Your people not because we deserved it, but so that You could purify us just as You are pure. Allow that to be our hope, our confidence, and our joy. In our blessed Savior's name we pray. Amen."

Wednesday

READ aloud **Isaiah 9:1-7** [To us a child is born] and discuss the ways Jesus is reigning from His birth on and forever. SING your favorite Christmas carol. Honor Christ as King. PRAY: "Your light has dawned upon us, Lord, and we rejoice. You alone are King of all creation. Make us faithful and loyal sons and daughters. Use us in extending Your kingdom here in Woodstock, New England, and the world. We pray in Your matchless name. Amen."

Thursday

Read aloud **Luke 2:36-38** [Anna's thanksgiving]. Discuss your ongoing response to redemption. SING *As with Gladness, Men of Old* and ask the Lord to evermore lead us to Him. Close in PRAYER reading in unison: "God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, You have promised from of old that You would send a Redeemer for Your people. We praise and thank You for Your faithfulness in redemption. Transform our hearts, make us joyful people because of Your steadfast love. Make our feet willingly run to You. Give our tongues boldness in proclaiming Your grace. Lead us more and more so that we can see Your face. Amen."

Friday

READ aloud **First John 1:1-4** [Word of life appeared] and discuss the testimony of the apostles. SING your favorite Christmas carol. READ aloud *Heidelberg Catechism* Question and Answer # 35:

Q: What does it mean that Jesus was "conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary?"

A: That the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took to Himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human nature so that He might become David's true descendant, in all things like us except for sin.

PRAY: "God of our fathers, we praise You for the miracle of the incarnation. Jesus, we thank You for becoming a man to set us free. Holy Spirit, we rejoice in Your supernatural power and we pray that You would work in us to declare the glory of Christ to our neighbors, coworkers, and friends. In Christ's name, Amen."

Saturday

READ aloud **John 1:1-18** [Word became flesh] and discuss how Jesus has made God known. Sing your favorite Christmas carol from these pages or another source. PRAY: "Glorious God, we praise You for giving us the light of the world. Lord Christ, You are the living Word and we do believe in Your name. It is through Your name that we are made children of God, co-heirs with You, and we worship and adore You. Teach us to live as becomes Your children. Amen."