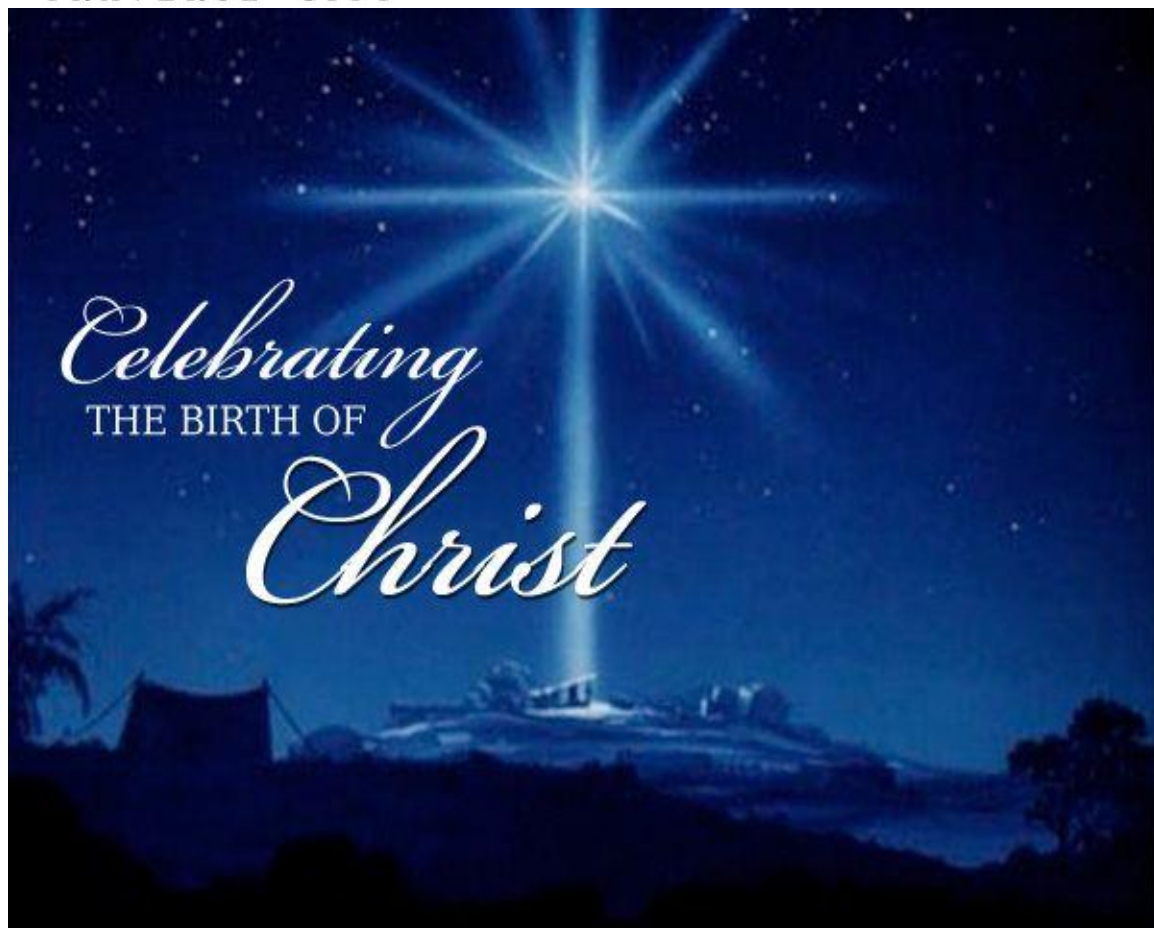




REDEEMER
TRAVERSE CITY

Christmas Eve



December 24, 2020

Welcome to Redeemer Presbyterian Church

We are glad you joined us for our Christmas Eve service of *Lessons and Carols*. This hundred-year-old liturgy of seven lessons walks us down a dramatic journey from Genesis to Revelation. At every turn it celebrates the prophecy and coming of Jesus Christ to rescue his people.

This evening we remember the history of our salvation by walking through the Bible and responding in song. We come together to rejoice that Christ came, rescues us from sin and death, and on the last day will take us to a new home to be with him forever.

Welcome & Opening

Pastor Scott Korljan

Lighting the Advent Wreath

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Opening Hymn #194 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Vss. 1, 3, & 5 only)



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on
3. O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's
4. O come, thou Day-spring from on high, and cheer us by thy
5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,
 Si - nai's height, in an - cient times didst give the law
 • tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save,
 draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,



REFRAIN

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 • and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
 and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 and close the path to mis - er - y.



man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.



First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-19

Reader: *Mankind loses life in earthly paradise by sinning against God. But God, in his great mercy and grace, gives Adam and Eve unexpected good news: God will send a redeemer, a Messiah who will one day bruise the serpent's head and restore mankind to fellowship with God.*

Scripture:

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The Lord God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. **I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.**"

To the woman he said,

"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

And to Adam he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it'; cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

First Carol #211 "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen" (Vss. 1, 3-4 only)



1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may,
2. From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther, a bless - ed an - gel came;
3. "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "let noth - ing you af - fright;
4. The shep - herds at those tid - ings re - joic - ed much in mind,



re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior was born on Christ - mas day,
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
this day is born a Sav - ior of a pure vir - gin bright,
and left their flocks a - feed - ing, in tem - pest, storm, and wind:



to save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray;
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's pow'r and might."
and went to Beth - le - hem straight - way, the Son of God to find.



O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy,



O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

Second Lesson: Isaiah 11:1–3; 9:6–7

Reader: *Isaiah prophecies the Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to return peace to his people.*

Scripture:

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear.

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.

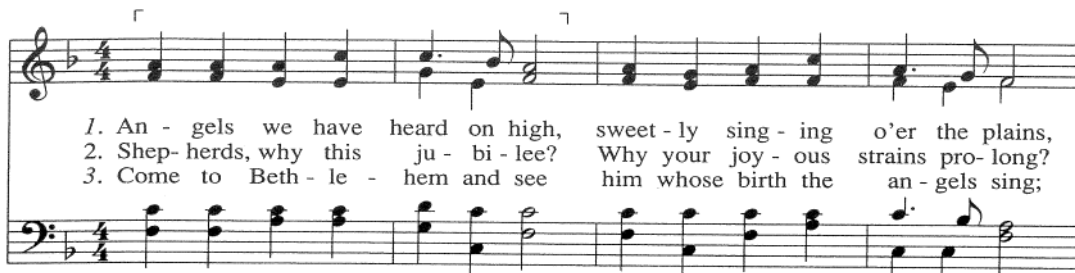
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.


Second Carol: #214 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.

Luke 2:14



1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2. Shep- herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
 Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

REFRAIN



Glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,



glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Third Lesson: Micah 5:1-5

Reader: *Micah foretells the coming Messiah will be born in the lowly town of Bethlehem.*

Scripture:

Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops;
siege is laid against us;
with a rod they strike the judge of Israel
on the cheek.

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

And he shall be their peace.

Third Carol: #201 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (Vss. 1, 2 & 4 only)

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie;
 2. For Christ is born of Mar - y; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4. O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

a - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by:
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 And prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

Fourth Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

Reader: *Matthew records the birth of Jesus Christ as the world's Messiah.*

Scripture:

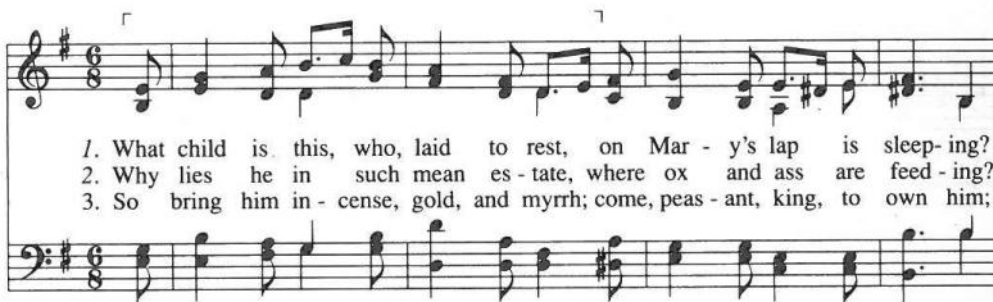
Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

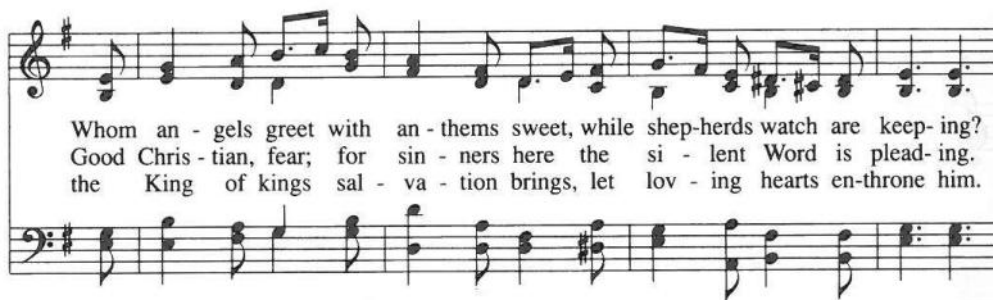
(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Fourth Carol #213 "What Child Is This"

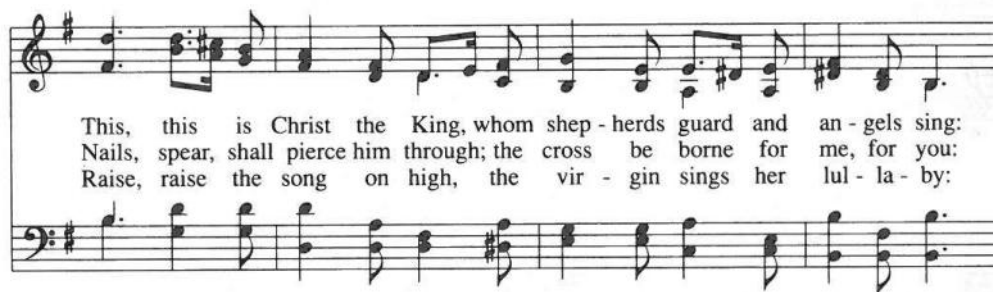
Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? Matt. 2:2



1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate, where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him;



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by:



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y.

Fifth Lesson: Luke 2:22-33

Reader: *The prophecies are fulfilled and the Savior-King has arrived. Simeon sees and rejoices at the arrival of the one who brings comfort and peace.*

Scripture:

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation
that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.

Fifth Carol: #195 "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heav'n and na - ture sing,

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Sixth Lesson: John 1:1-14

Reader: *The Apostle John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*

Scripture:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Sixth Carol: #203 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

> 1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
 > 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 > 3. Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb:
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that men no more may die,

With th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

Refrain
 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

Christmas Meditation - Pastor Scott Korljan

Seventh Lesson: Revelation 21:1-4, 22:1-5

Reader: *The Bible closes explaining our struggles while giving us a forum to hope. Amidst suffering, John portrays the future of those who hope in the crucified King, a New and Better heaven where we dwell with God forever.*

Scripture:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming, down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Departing Candlelight Carol: #210 "Silent Night! Holy Night!"

They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. Luke 2:16

Capo 1: ♮ B♭(A) ♮ F⁷(E⁷) B♭(A) E♭(D)

1. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright round yon
 2. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep- herds quake at the sight! Glo - ries
 3. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light ra - diant
 4. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light; with the

vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,
 stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
 beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
 an - gels let us sing al - le - lu - ia to our King;

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!

Postlude Rick Harkert

Leading our Christmas Eve Service:	Pastor Scott Korljan
First Lesson:	Cheryl Dann
Second Lesson:	Whims Family
Third Lesson:	Gibson Family
Fourth Lesson:	Jeff Kozisek
Fifth Lesson:	Connie VanTil
Sixth Lesson:	Stephen Ruhl
Seventh Lesson:	Pastor Scott Korljan
Music Ministry:	Connie Van Til Jaime Boerema Carly Boerema

Gospel Story in Key Movements

1) Beginning & Rebellion

In the beginning, God designed and created a paradise to dwell with his beautiful children. We were fashioned in a manner to be near God and live perfectly. Unfortunately, the children of God spit in his face; they mocked his 'Godness' by rebelling. Justice should have been death for the sins of Adam and Eve.

2) Promised Gospel

The Gospel is first revealed when God, in his great mercy and grace, gives Adam and Eve unexpected good news: God will send a redeemer to crush sin and refashion his children in the new creation to have perfect intimacy with God.

3) Trail to Christ:

Just like us, there were points where God's people become discouraged with the trials of sinful life and doubted the promises. God, however, is faithful and sent prophets to remind and point his people forward when the birth of a child would emerge from the ashes of lost hope.

5) Arrival of the Savior:

At the birth of Jesus, the long-awaited prophecies are fulfilled and the Savior-King arrives. The joyous gift to us is that the Eternal-Word became man and tabernacled among us. As in the original paradise, God came to his sinning children to rescue and save us. Salvation is given to all who receive Christ by faith. Those of faith have their sins forgiven and are granted authority to be renewed as God's children.

7) Jesus' Sacrifice:

Sometimes the only way to fix something is start from scratch and in a sense that is what Christ did. He took the punishment for our sins to the cross and tomb to pay our debts. With his resurrection and ascending to heaven he has secured our future; a future of a new and better creation. In Christ our eternal life is achieved and even foretasted today. The Christian lives today assured of the future and presently enjoying God who is once again making us beautiful.

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