

SERMON - CHRISTMAS EVE - 24 DECEMBER 2009
St. John's Anglican Church, Greensboro, North Carolina

Hodie Christus Natus Est!

Today, Christ Is Born!

The words of the traditional Introit for Christmas Day remind me of the words of Isaiah the Prophet.

Parvulus enim natus est nobis.... filius datus est nobis

Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:

Hodie Christus Natus Est!

Today, Christ Is Born!

Tonight, those words of Isaiah echo across the centuries, ever fresh, ever new, prophesying the birth of our Saviour, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Tonight, we hear the Gospel account of the Birth of Jesus, the story that is ever new. The story that is the reason why we are all gathered here in this church tonight.

Luke 2:11 (KJV)

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Over the last few weeks, the season of Advent, we have meditated on the coming of the Light, the coming of our Lord to bring us out of the darkness into the light, the light of salvation.

John 1:4-5 (KJV) In him was life; and the life was the light of men. [5] And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Tonight, we again renew that light and as we celebrate the birth of our Lord we bring Him to us in the Real Presence of His precious Body and Blood. His Real Presence tonight for us is just as real as it was for those in that poor cave stable so long ago.

The Babe of Bethlehem is with us tonight. The Crucified Christ is with us tonight. Our Risen Lord is with us tonight.

The Babe is just the beginning. The story of the Nativity is just the start of the story, the story that leads us all to Calvary, to the Tomb, to the Glory of that first Easter morning.

But tonight, we revel in the Birth. We revel in the Birth but we should ever remember that Christ was born to die, to die for our sins.

Isaiah continues *and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

That night, that night when time and eternity came together and the dimension of Heaven was opened, the event when literally the veil between Heaven and Earth was ripped apart as Luke described it Luke 2:10-14 (KJV) *And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. [11] For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. [12] And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

Today, The Prince of Peace is born.

Tonight, although there is very little peace on this planet Earth, there is hope, hope of the peace that passes all understanding, the peace that only God can give.

That is the story of Christmas.

That is our story as Christians.

No other people have it. Only us Christians.

We have a Saviour, our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us on Calvary and rose from the dead to give us all the hope of life with God in the peace of eternity.

We have a Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Today, Christ is born.

Hodie Christus Natus Est.

Amen.