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A Service for the Worship of God

December 26, 2021

**The First Sunday of Christmas**

\**Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

PRELUDE What Child is This? (Hymn 53) arr. Paul Manz

**GATHER AND GIVE PRAISE, FOR CHRIST IS BORN!**

**Christmas Hymn Sing**

*\*Please turn to the front of the hymnal and look for your favorite carol.*

**HEAR THE GOOD NEWS: CHRIST IS BORN!**

SCRIPTURE READING Colossians 3:12-17

As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION “Refuge” Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

First Coming

He did not wait till the world was ready,

till men and nations were at peace.

He came when the Heavens were unsteady,

and prisoners cried out for release.

He did not wait for the perfect time.

He came when the need was deep and great.

He dined with sinners in all their grime,

turned water into wine.

He did not wait till hearts were pure.

In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.

To a world like ours, of anguished shame

he came and his Light would not go out.

He came to a world which did not mesh,

to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.

In the mystery of the Word made Flesh

the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane

to raise our songs with joyful voice,

for to share our grief, to touch our pain,

He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

\*CAROL

**RESPOND AND GO, FOR CHRIST IS BORN!**

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

\*CAROL

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Away in a Manger (Hymn 43) arr. Robert Lau