

**“Behold!”**

Luke 2:10-14

Christmas Eve, 11:15 pm Midnight Holy Communion

The Rev. Todd R. Goddard, pastor

The Zion West Walworth United Methodist Church

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. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Prayer.

Behold,  
I bring you good tidings of great joy.

It could have happened to you.  
It could have happened to me.  
In your place of work or school  
or in my office, behind my computer.  
An angel appeared  
to shepherds  
regular people at work  
blue collar citizens of the human race.  
An angel appeared  
two thousand years ago  
another culture  
another land  
another language.  
But it could be  
that the angel that appeared  
to lowly shepherds  
is the very same angel who is  
ready in the wings  
prepared to enter our reality  
in the very

next  
moment.

Behold!  
She says,  
the good news comes to all people.  
The good news doesn't come  
just to white males  
just to children  
just to African-American  
just to Asian and Pacific Islanders  
just to the rich  
or just to the poor.  
Good news comes to all people.  
God knows better.  
God knows  
the best approach  
embraces diversity  
encourages integration  
celebrates uniqueness.  
God knows  
the best approach  
leaves no child behind  
abandons no senior  
impoverishes no family

“Behold!”

Luke 2:10-14

Christmas Eve, 11:15 pm Midnight Holy Communion

The Rev. Todd R. Goddard, pastor

The Zion West Walworth United Methodist Church

makes no distinctions of gender  
marginalizes no ethnicity  
excludes no race.  
Good news comes  
from God  
through the angel  
to all people.

Behold!  
For unto you is born  
this day  
in the city of David  
a Saviour,  
which is Christ the Lord.  
Labor  
wretching  
contracting  
blood and fluid  
tearing tissue  
...  
euphoric relief  
head rush from pushing  
tears rolling over the curve of the cheek  
salty on the tongue  
thankful that it is over:  
a baby is born!  
Behold!  
This is no ordinary baby.  
A baby is born  
the Son of God.  
A Saviour  
of the people.  
From the weak, fragile, little baby  
comes a Saviour  
to every member of the human race.  
Behold!  
The good news is that this baby  
God's Son  
is sent to save you  
from condemnation  
due to sin  
into everlasting life  
in perfect harmony

with God.  
Fully human;  
fully Divine.  
Son of God.  
Son of man.  
Behold!  
The Savior of the world  
is come.

Ye shall find the babe  
wrapped in swaddling clothes  
lying in a manger.  
This was no hallucination.  
This was no vision or sign.  
This was  
cold water splashed  
in the face of sleeping humanity.  
This was  
as real  
as the fingers on the end of your hands  
This was  
as real  
as the nose on the center of your face.  
In the realm of faith  
this was as real as it can get:  
God became  
more than what God had been.  
God became  
the lowest and least  
the weakest and most vulnerable  
the humble  
like feed in a trough  
a baby  
born to save the world.

Behold!  
The chorus swells  
and begs you to join in:  
Glory to God in the highest!  
Glory be to the one  
who chooses to save us!  
Glory be to the one  
whose only motive is love!

Glory be to the one  
who chooses to move and to act!  
Glory be to the one  
whose purpose it is  
is to save us from sin  
and to save us into eternal life!

Behold!  
The age of prophecy is ended.  
The old way of doing business is over.  
New wine for new wine skins  
A new age for a new kingdom  
Behold!  
The child  
the Savior of the world  
becomes that which  
Isaiah and John  
envisioned:  
a peaceable kingdom  
is come  
where war and violence is ended!  
Mourning and death is no more!  
Where the lion will lay down with the lamb!  
And were spears and swords  
will be recast into plows and pruning hooks.

Behold!  
Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace,  
good will toward men.  
Glory to God in the highest,  
for sending us his Son  
for loving us so much that  
God is compelled to save us.  
Glory to God in the highest,  
for all of God's  
goodwill towards all humanity.  
Behold!  
The Savior of the world  
is come.

Merry Christmas!