

THE PARADOXES OF CHRISTMAS

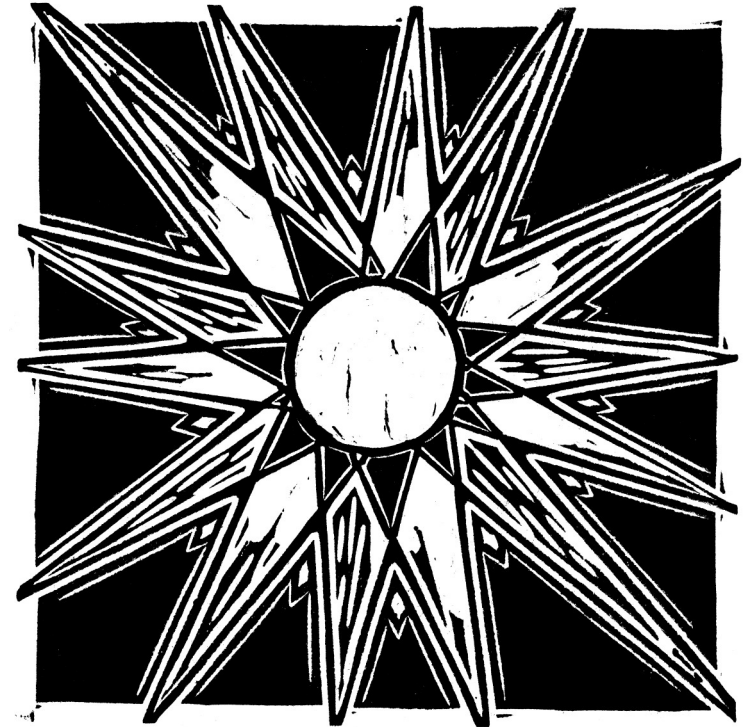
What Jesus Experienced	SO	We Can Experience
1. Physical Birth Luke 2:11-12		1. Spiritual New Birth John 1:12-13; 3:5-6
2. No Room Luke 2:7; 9:58		2. A Prepared Place John 14:2
3. Human Family Matt. 1:2-26; Luke 3:23-38		3. Adoption by God John 1:12-13, Eph. 1:4-6
4. Bound Under the Law Luke 2:22,40,52; Gal. 4:4		4. Freedom from the Law Galatians 4:5; 5:1
5. Glory Relinquished Philippians 2:6-7		5. Glory Inherited I Peter 5:4; II Timothy 4:8
6. Poverty Matt. 8:20; II Cor. 8:9		6. Wealth II Corinthians 8:9
7. Welcome by Shepherds Luke 2:16		7. By Angels and Christ Luke 15:10; Matt. 25:34
8. Pursued by Destroyer Matthew 2:13		8. Destroyer Destroyed Heb. 2:14-15; I Cor. 15:54-55
9. Our Sin Isaiah 53:5-6; II Cor. 5:21		9. His Righteousness II Peter 2:24; 3:18
10. Death John 19:30; I Peter 3:18		10. Eternal Life John 5:24; 3:16

Worship Participants

Pastor: Rev. Jerry Buwalda ♦ Piano: Jill Friend ♦ Viola: Derek Friend ♦ Cello: Nathan Friend
Worship Leader: Sanneke Kok ♦ Sound: Jeff Ploegstra ♦ Projection: Kyle Vander Plaats
CCLI #493458 ♦ OneLicense #A-721171

First Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 2017



† *Sun of Righteousness*, Linoleum block print by Elizabeth Steele Halstead.
Reprinted by permission from *Visuals for Worship*, © 2006 Faith Alive
Christian Resources

Collect

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

God Gathers Us for Worship

Welcome

*Call to Worship (based on Isaiah 9:2)

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
**on those living in the land of the shadow of death
 a light has dawned.**

Jesus Christ is our life and light.

In his name and in his power, let us worship God!

*Song: "How Great Our Joy" LUYH 90

*God Greet Us, We Greet One Another

*Song: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" LUYH 78:1-4

We Celebrate God's Covenant Promises

The Promises of Baptism

The Baptismal Vows

Brothers and sisters, do you, the people of the Lord,
 promise to receive Rue in love, pray for her, help instruct her in the faith,
 and encourage and sustain her in the fellowship of believers?

Brothers and sisters, what is your answer?

We do, God helping us.

Prayer of Consecration and Thanksgiving

The Baptism of Rue Collins Mellema

Presentation of Quilt

Prayer of Blessing

*Song: "Baptized in Water" LUYH 790

God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Children's Blessing: "Don't Be Afraid" LUYH 429

Children ages 3 years old through Kindergarten are invited to come to the front of the sanctuary to receive a prayer of blessing before going downstairs to the Multi-Purpose Room for a time of worship designed especially for young children. Our young guests are welcome to participate in this service.

Scripture: Philippians 2:6-11 p.1827

Sermon: "The Paradoxes of Christmas" Rev. Jerry Buwalda

*Song of Response: "And Can It Be" LUYH 695:1,2,4

We Offer Our Gifts and Prayers

Offertory Prayer

We Offer our Gifts

Each week at Covenant we receive a monetary offering to support the mission and ministry of the church. This morning's offering will support the General Fund: Ministry Shares which enables all of us to participate in life-changing ministry, at home and around the world, through our denomination

We Share Our Joys & Concerns and Pray for One Another

We Dedicate Ourselves to Holy Living

*Song of Dedication: "Jesus, the Light of the World" LUYH 100:1-3

We are Sent with God's Blessing

*Benediction

*Closing Song: "Jesus, the Light of the World" LUYH 100:4