

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14

The reality, the fact, of the Son of God coming to earth as a Babe is so stupendous that man's mind can scarcely grasp it. Even when dimly perceived through these words of John, the outlines of God's plan and the reality of His concern for His creation fill one with awe and leave the soul humble and thankful.

Because we scarcely can comprehend the immensity of these truths, we seek for ways of making them more understandable. Great paintings make vivid the events of the birth of Christ. Poets' singing words illumine the story. Simple symbols, beloved of Christians from earliest times, help us to grasp great truths. And music has captured some of the eternal melodies of the angel choir.

So it is that on the cover of this Christmas bulletin, once again we try to make visible and understandable some of the mystery of God's Gift. Using the ancient Christian symbols, culminating in the reality of the Holy Child at the heart of the Christmas Rose, the artist has put into flowing line and color the words of John.

The Hand of the Creator, symbolizing God the Father, gives this Gift to us. He is "the one who is, was, and shall be, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end." (Rev. 22:13) The Hand holds the Promised One, the Chi Rho, symbol of Christ who is the Gift of God, the promised Messiah.

This Gift of God is symbolized by the Christmas Rose of the Incarnation, the coming in the flesh, which brought the mystical and spiritual into the realm of human reality. The Rose, used as a symbol since the First Century because of the roses which bloom at Christmas time in the Judean hills, manifests the unfolding of the Promise, as God made evident His love for man. That love took reality in the form of a tiny Baby born in a stable in Bethlehem; in a sky which was radiant with glory; in shepherds who, obeying some heavenly urging, came to kneel before the Infant in the manger; and in angels who, unable to contain their joy, shouted praise to God.

With the Gift, has come the Holy Spirit, now transforming and renewing the lives of those who look to Christ as Lord and Saviour. The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit, symbolized by the seven doves, are described in Revelation 5:12 as Power, Riches, Wisdom, Strength, Honor, Glory and Blessing. These were the inheritance of the Christ, the Lamb Who was slain, and these are our inheritance through Him. These are the meanings of that which you see—that we may more fully comprehend God's entrance into history, the central fact in man's pilgrimage.



**And the Word was made flesh
and dwelt among us.**

AIMWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LONGTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ridgeway, South Carolina

Joseph D. Beale, Pastor

December 22, 1957

"Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy,
which shall be to all people. For unto you is
born this day a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

Mrs. J. L. Coleman

PRELUDE
*DOXOLOGY
*INVOCATION (Closing with the Lord's Prayer)
-RESPONSIVE READING SELECTION 43
*HYMN 49 "Angels, From The Realms Of Glory"
SCRIPTURE READING
ANTHEM "What Child Is This Who Laid To Rest On Marys'
Lap Is Sleeping? Whom Angels Greet With
Anthem Sweet While Shepherds Watch Are Keeping.
This, This is Christ the King, Whom Shepherds Guard
and Angels Sing. Haste, Haste to bring Him Laude
the Babe The Son Of Mary."
ORGAN MEDITATION (Let us bow in silent prayer)
MORNING PRAYER
HYMN 79 "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"
WORSHIP GOD WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
*HYMN 55 "O Little Town Of Bethlehem" (1,4)
SERMON "LET US GO EVEN UNTO BETHLEHEM"
PRAYER
*HYMN 21 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"(1,2,4)
CHRISTMAS INVITATION
BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE

OUR CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Our loving Father, we thank thee for our quick-
ened memories today and the pictures they pre-
sent to our minds. We see the scenes of long
ago, a mother and a babe, wakeful shepherds and
their sheep, pilgrim wise men and a guiding
star; and other nearer scenes of our own child-
hood. We thank thee for the touch of love upon
our hearts, for the Christ spirit seeking
entrance in our lives. Help us to open every
door of our hearts unto his full entrance.

God bless us every one, old men and children,
mothers and their babes; the high, the low; the
rich, the poor. God bless us every one through-
out the whole wide world. And let the joy of
our hearts and their peace be unto the praise
of him who once was the Babe of Bethlehem. Amen.

INFANT BAPTISMAL SERVICE AT LONGTOWN

Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Kelly have come to give a
son to God. Craig Lee Kelly will receive the
Sacrament of Baptism. He will then become a
child of the covenant promises of God when He
said, "I will be your God and the God of your
children and your childrens' children from
generation to generation." The parents will
make this covenant with God for the child.
"Suffer the little children to come unto Me"

CHRISTMAS CAROLING - The choirs will assemble
in front of our church on Tuesday evening at
7:00 P.M. prepared to sing Christmas Carols to
our sick and shut-in members and friends. Any-
one who would like to join us is invited.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP WILL NOT MEET TONIGHT BUT WILL
JOIN WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN PRESENTING THE
PAGEANT "BEHOLD...HIS STAR! All members of the
cast participating in the play are asked to be
at the church at 7 O'clock sharp.
Mrs. C.B. Kelly directing, Mrs. Magill assisting

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SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM TONIGHT AT 7:30 P.M. in
our Church Sanctuary. The yearly JOY GIFT will be
received at this time sponsored by the Women of the
church. The young people will present a pageant.