

The Whole Story of Christmas

Opening Songs (2 songs by the worship team):

Welcome:

Pastor: Tonight we will share with you an old, old story. It is a story of love, of sacrifice, of mystery. It's a story about bravery and death, and about conquering evil. It's about joy, a baby, and even some angels.

今夜は、皆さんに昔々のお話をしましょう。このお話は、愛と犠牲と神秘のお話です。そして、勇気と死のお話です。また悪に勝利する喜びのお話です。赤ちゃんや天使まで登場します。

Sunday school representative: lights first four advent candles of the advent wreath as Pastor speaks the following paragraph.

Pastor: This story, God's story, reminds us that Christ brings us the hope that there is more to life than this world. It reminds us that Christ will give us a peace that defies all human reason, that God's love is unconditional and eternal, and that the joy God offers is indescribable!

このお話は神のお話です。この世の人生がすべてではない、キリストが私たちに希望をもたらしてくれると教えてくれます。人間の理屈を超えた平安をキリストが与えてくれること、神の愛が無条件で永遠であること、そして、言葉では言い表せないほどの喜びを神が与えようとしておられることを教えてくれます。

Maybe you have heard this story so many times that you know it by heart. Maybe you've heard the story before but never really understood it. And maybe you've never heard this story told quite like this. Whatever the case, tonight it is our prayer that this story will touch your heart as never before.

この話をこれまでに何度も聞いていて、もう覚えているという人もいるでしょう。聞いたことがあるけれど、よくわからなかつたという人もいるでしょう。または、こんな話は今まで聞いたことがないという人もいるでしょう。いずれにせよ、今夜、このお話が今までにない形で皆さん的心に届くように祈ります。

Pastor: The only logical place to start our story is at the very beginning.

では、最初から順を追ってこのお話をお届けしましょう。

Bible reader 1: Genesis 1:1, 26-31

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all^a the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

²⁹ And God said, “See, I have given you every herb *that yields seed which is* on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.

³⁰ Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which *there is* life, *I have given* every green herb for food”; and it was so. ³¹ Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed *it was* very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Pastor: In this beautiful creation, God planted a garden for the man he had created. God filled the garden with all kinds of trees that were both lovely to look at and good to eat. Four rivers ran through this garden to keep it lush and green. But God saw that everything was not yet perfect. Adam needed a companion. So God created Eve to work alongside him. Sometimes, in the cool of the day, God walked in the garden with Adam and Eve. God loved them very much.

この美しく造られた世界に神は園をお造りになり、神がお造りになった人にその世話をさせました。神は園を美味しい実をならせる美しい木で満たされました。この園に流れる4つの川のおかげで、園はいつも青々と茂っていました。しかし、神はすべてが完全だとは思われませんでした。アダムにふさわしい助け手がいなかったからです。そこで神は、アダムと一緒に働くことができるようになるとエバをお造りになりました。神は時には、そよ風の吹く園の中をアダムとエバとともに歩かれました。神はふたりを深く愛しておられました。

Now in this garden was one tree that God had commanded Adam and Eve not to eat from. But one day, a serpent came to Eve. As the Bible says, “the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made.” And the serpent tricked Eve into eating from the one tree that God had commanded them not to touch. Eve brought the fruit to Adam, and he ate too. Adam and Eve disobeyed God. When they ate from that tree, everything changed.

さて、園の中には、ひとつの木がありました。その木の実を食べてはいけないと神はアダムとエバに命じられました。けれどもある日、蛇がエバのところにやってきました。聖書には、「神である【主】が造られたあらゆる野の獣のうちで、蛇が一番狡猾であった。」と書いてあります。この蛇はエバにうまく言い寄り、神が食べてはいけないとおっしゃった木の実を食べさせました。エバはその実をアダムにも渡したので、アダムも食べてしまいました。アダムとエバは神に逆らってしまったのです。ふたりがその木の実を食べたとき、すべてが変わってしまいました。

For the first time Adam and Eve hid from God. They knew God would be coming to walk with them in the garden, and they hid. God knew they had sinned before He went to the garden to find them. God could have abandoned the creation that had abandoned Him, but He didn’t. God loved them, and so He went in search of them. There would be consequences for their actions – but only because God loved them so much.

アダムとエバは初めて神から隠れました。神がアダムとエバと一緒に歩こうと来られるのを知って、ふたりは隠れたのです。神は園でふたりを見つける前から、ふたりが罪を犯したことをご存じでした。神は、神を捨てた被造物を見捨てることもおできになりましたが、そうはなさいませんでした。神はふたりを愛しておられたので、ふたりを探しに行かれました。ふたりの行為が招く悲惨な結果は避けられませんが、それも神がふたりを深く愛しておられたからこそのことです。

Bible reader 2 : Genesis 3:14-19, 23

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent:

"Because you have done this,
You *are* cursed more than all cattle,
And more than every beast of the field;
On your belly you shall go,
And you shall eat dust
All the days of your life.

¹⁵ And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel."

¹⁶ To the woman He said:

"I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception;
In pain you shall bring forth children;
Your desire *shall be* for your husband,
And he shall rule over you."

¹⁷ Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it':

"Cursed *is* the ground for your sake;
In toil you shall eat *of* it
All the days of your life.

¹⁸ Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you,
And you shall eat the herb of the field.

¹⁹ In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread
Till you return to the ground,
For out of it you were taken;
For dust you *are*,
And to dust you shall return."

²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.

Pastor: After this Adam and Eve no longer walked and talked with God in the garden that He had made for them. God knew what this sin was going to bring: the wars, the atrocities, and the evil. But God knew something else as well. God knew how much he loved the people He had made. God loves us, the crown of His creation. But God also knew the end of this story. When God spoke to the serpent that day, He was saying to Satan, “You may have won this battle, but I will win the war. Today, right here, I will begin my plan to bring my people back to me. I will bring them back to my garden where they will walk and talk with me. You have brought this sin into my creation – but I will succeed, and I will be victorious. You may strike my heel, but I will crush your head.”

このことがあってから、ふたりのために神が造られた園の中をアダムとエバが神とともに歩き語り合うことはもうなくなりました。神は、この罪が戦争や残虐行為、あらゆる悪をもたらすことをご存じでした。けれども同時に、神はもうひとつのこともご存じでした。それは、ご自身がお造りになった人間を神が深く愛しておられることです。神は私たちを愛しておられます。私たち人間は神の最高の被造物です。神はこの話の結末もご存じです。神が蛇に語られたとき、サタンに向かってこう言われたのです。「サタンよ、この戦いに勝ったつもりかもしれないが、最終的に勝つのはわたしだ。今日ここから、わたしはわたしの民を取り戻す計画を実行する。わたしは、わたしの民をこの園に連れ戻し、ふたたびわたしとともに歩み、語り合えるようにする。サタンはわたしの被造物の中に罪をもたらしたが、わたしはこの計画をやり遂げる。そして勝利する。サタンがわたしのかかとにかみついても、わたしはサタンの頭を踏み碎く。」

And so the rest of God’s story is the story of how God’s plan unfolds – one generation at a time. God promised Abraham that he would bless all the peoples of the earth through his descendants, the nation of Israel. During the time of Moses, God showed the Israelites again that He loved them enough to deliver them from the slavery they endured in Egypt. When they wanted kings instead of God, He gave them kings, including King David, from whose line the Messiah would come.

これからつづく神のお話は、神のご計画がひとつひとつどのように実現したかを物語ります。神は、アブラハムの子孫であるイスラエルの民をとおして地上のすべての人々を祝福すると、アブラハムに約束なさいました。モーセの時代には、神はイスラエルの民にご自身の愛を示し、エジプトでの奴隸生活から彼らを解放してくださいました。イスラエルの民が神の代わりに王を求めるとき、神は王を与えられました。その王の中に、救い主の先祖となるダビデ王もいます。

Time and again, sin and disobedience defined God’s people. God disciplined them, but He never abandoned them. God sent prophets to point the Israelites back to God and call for them to repent.

神の民は、幾度となく神に逆らって罪を犯しました。神は民を懲らしめられましたが、決して見捨てたりなさいませんでした。神は預言者を遣わして、イスラエルの民に悔い改めを呼び掛け、神に立ち返らせようとなさいました。

Bible reader 3: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; 7:14

²The people who walked in darkness
Have seen a great light;
Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,
Upon them a light has shined.

⁶For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the increase of *His* government and peace
There will be no end,
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice
From that time forward, even forever.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

¹⁴Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Congregational Song: O Come O Come Immanuel (Piano by Bonnie)

Pastor: The prophets spoke of a promise that God made thousands of years before – a promise that He made to Adam, to Eve and to Satan. God promised to bring his people back to Him. God made promises to Abraham, to Isaac, to Jacob, to Ruth, to David, whose father was Jesse and to countless other descendants of Abraham. The Messiah, the Saviour, would come from their line – he would be part of their family tree.

預言者たちは、神が何千年も前に語られた約束について人々に教えました。その約束とは、神がアダムとエバ、そしてサタンに向かって、神の民をご自身のもとに連れ戻すと言わされた約束です。神はアブラハム、イサク、ヤコブ、ルツ、エッサイの子ダビデをはじめ、アブラハムの子孫たちに向かって約束を語られました。それは、救い主メシヤが彼らの子孫から生まれるという約束でした。

Bible reader 4: Isaiah 11:1-3a

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him,
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The Spirit of counsel and might,
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

³His delight is in the fear of the LORD,

Bible reader 4: Galatians 4:4-5a

⁴But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law,

Pastor: The time had come; and now we see the next step in God's plan.

時が来て、神のご計画が次の段階へと進みます。

Bible reader 5: Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"^[a]

²⁹ But when she saw him,^[b] she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.

³⁰ Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.

³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

³⁶ Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. ³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible."

³⁸ Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Pastor: So there was Mary, unmarried and pregnant. Not a good situation in that day. But her fiancé Joseph was a man of faith. After an angel appeared to him in a dream, he took Mary home as his wife. Soon after, the Roman government ordered a census and Joseph and Mary were forced to make a journey.

未婚のマリヤが妊娠していました。この時代、それはとんでもないのことでした。けれども、マリヤの婚約者のヨセフは信仰深い人でした。夢の中で御使いがヨセフに現れると、ヨセフはマリヤを妻として迎えました。その後、ローマ政府が住民登録を命じたので、ヨセフとマリヤは旅に出なければならなくなりました。

Bible reader 6: Luke 2:1-7

And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.² This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.³ So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife,^[a] who was with child.

⁶ So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Bible reader 7: Luke 2:8-16

⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.⁹ And behold,^[a] an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

¹² And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, 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, goodwill toward men!”^[b]

¹⁵ So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.”

¹⁶ And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Congregational Song: Silent Night

Bible Reader 8: Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,² saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

³ When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

⁵ So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘But you, Bethlehem, *in the land of Judah,*
Are not the least among the rulers of Judah;
For out of you shall come a Ruler
Who will shepherd My people Israel.’”^[a]

⁷ Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.”

⁹ When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.

¹¹ And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹² Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

Jeni's Solo: "Mary Did You Know?"

Pastor: You see the story doesn't end with a baby in the manger. His birth was monumental; but it wasn't the end. With his birth, God came to earth to continue his plan to bring us back to him. In that plan, this baby – God himself – would grow up to be a man. He would teach people – by word and by example – about what the kingdom of God is like and how people can enter it. He would send his followers out to spread the word in Judea, in Samaria and to the ends of the world. And he would be accused, arrested and sentenced to death – a perfect human, a human who had committed no sin. This human, Jesus, went willingly to his death because he knew it was his father's plan. He was beaten and hung on a cross. He prepared to die.

飼い葉おけに赤ちゃんが眠っているというのがこのお話の結末ではありません。この赤ちゃんの誕生は歴史に残ることですが、それで終わりではないのです。この赤ちゃんの誕生によって、神が地上に来られました。それは、神が民をご自身のもとに連れ戻すというご計画を進めるためです。その計画の中で、神ご自身であるこの赤ちゃんは、人として育ちます。このお方は、言葉と模範によって、神の王国がどのようなところで、どのようにして人がそこに入れるのかを教えます。このお方は神のことばを告げ知らせるために、弟子たちをユダヤとサマリヤの全土、そして地の果てまで遣わされます。このお方は、完ぺきな人間で、罪を一切犯されなかつ

たのに、非難され、捕らえられて死刑に処せられました。このお方イエスは、自ら進んでその死を受け入れられました。それが父なる神のご計画だと知っておられたからです。イエスはむち打たれ、十字架にかけられました。イエスは死を覚悟なさっていました。

Bible reader 9: John 19:28-30

²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing^[a] that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, “I thirst!” ²⁹ Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth.

³⁰ So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Pastor: Did you hear that? Jesus said, “It is finished.” God’s plan was accomplished. Jesus died on that cross – paying for our sin. But then three days later, he rose from the dead. He conquered death and made a way for his beloved people to come back to him. If we believe in Jesus, it is as if we never sinned. We can now walk and talk with God. The garden has been opened again. We can be reunited with God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

皆さん、お聞きになりましたか。イエスは「完了した」とおっしゃいました。神のご計画が完成したのです。イエスは十字架で死なれ、私たちの罪の罰を受けられました。けれども、イエスは三日後に、死からよみがえられました。死を克服し、愛する人々をご自身のもとに連れ戻す道を開いてくださったのです。イエスを信じるなら、まるで私たちが一度も罪を犯さなかつたようにみなされます。神とともに歩み、語り合うことができるのです。園は再び開かれました。イエス・キリストの死と復活により、私たちは再び神とひとつになれるのです。

The choice is now up to us. If we choose to ask Jesus to forgive our sins, to return to God, to his garden – that choice brings us the greatest joy ever imagined: an eternal all surpassing joy.

決めるのは私たちです。罪の赦しをイエスに請って、神のおられる園に帰るなら、今まで想像もしなかった大きな喜びが私たちに与えられます。それは、すべてを超える永遠の喜びです。

God created us, we turned our back on him, but he had a plan to bring us back. It was a very costly plan, but it was a victorious plan. It was a plan to bring us joy and that’s what we celebrate today.

神は私たちをお造りになりました。私たちは神に背を向けましたが、神には私たちを連れ戻すご計画がありました。それには大きな犠牲が伴いましたが、その結末は勝利です。この計画は、私たちに喜びをもたらすものです。だからこそ、今日私たちは祝うのです。

Choir: “Once In Royal David’s City” & “Star Carol”

Closing Invitation: If you don’t know this joy yet, or if you’re still trying to figure out how it can come to you, we hope you will talk with someone who knows Jesus Christ and knows the joy that he can bring. Don’t let this Christmas go by without listening to God’s call. God is waiting for you, he’s searching for

you – just like he searched for Adam and Eve in the garden. God loves you and he wants you to come back to him.

まだこの喜びを経験したことがない、または、その喜びをどのようにして自分のものにしたらよいのかわからないという方は、ぜひ、イエス・キリストをすでに受け入れている人やイエスがもたらす喜びを経験している人と話してください。神の呼びかけに耳を傾けない今まで、このクリスマスを終わらせないでください。神はあなたのことを探っておられます。園でアダムとエバのことを探されたように、あなたのことを探しておられます。神はあなたのことをおられ、神のもとに戻ってくることを望んでおられます。

Congregational Hymn: O Holy Night

Closing Prayer and Blessing.