

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Words: Aurelius Prudentius, 5th Century

Music: Divinum Mysterium, Plainsong, 12th Century. Arr. Charles Douglas (1916)

①

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

②

At His Word the worlds were framèd; He commanded; it was done:
Heaven and earth and depths of ocean in their threefold order one;
All that grows beneath the shining
Of the moon and burning sun, evermore and evermore!

③

He is found in human fashion, death and sorrow here to know,
That the race of Adam's children doomed by law to endless woe,
May not henceforth die and perish
In the dreadful gulf below, evermore and evermore!

④ **Choir**

O ye heights of heav'n adore Him; angel hosts, His praises sing;
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King!
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore!

⑤

O that birth forever blessèd, when the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bare the Savior of our race;
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face, evermore and evermore!

We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

Cover art: *Madonna and Child*. Michaelangelo (c. 1522). Black, white and red chalk drawing.

The Festival of the Incarnation of God

By common confession,

great is the mystery of godliness:

Who was revealed in the flesh,

Was vindicated in the Spirit,

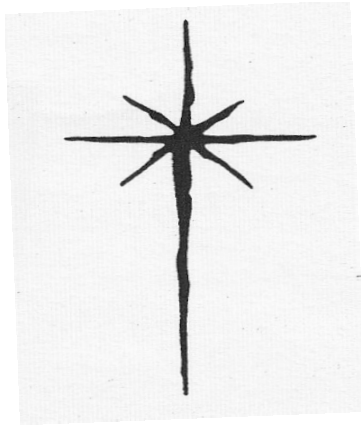
Seen by angels,

Proclaimed among the nations,

Believed on in the world,

Taken up in glory.

—1 Timothy 3:16—



**The
light
shines
in
the
darkness....**

John 1:5a

Old Orchard Church

Christmas Day

December 25, 2011 – 11:00 a.m.

Celebrating our Incarnate God:

A Great and Mighty Wonder

Christ is born: glorify him.... Once more the darkness is dispersed; once more the light is created. Let the people that sat in the darkness of ignorance now look upon the light of knowledge. The things of old have passed away; behold, all things are made new. He who has no mother in heaven is now born without father on earth. The laws of nature are overthrown, for the upper world must be filled with citizens. He who is without flesh becomes incarnate; the Word puts on a body; the Invisible is seen; he whom no hand can touch is handled; the Timeless has a beginning; the Son of God becomes Son of Man—Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and for ever.

Light from light, the Word of the Father comes to his own image, man. For the sake of my flesh he takes flesh; for the sake of my soul he is united to a rational soul, purifying like by like. In every way he becomes man, except for sin. O strange conjunction! The Self-existent comes into being; the Uncreated is created. He shares in the poverty of my flesh, that I may share in the riches of his Godhead.

—Gregory of Nazianzus (329-389 AD)

Today's Scripture

Old Testament Lesson:

Isaiah 35

Homily on the Word

“At the Center: Mystery and Awe—From ‘a World Lit Only by Fire’”

Luke 2; I Timothy 3:16

Ron Lutjens, pastor, preaching

