

## *The Lord Is King*

*Words by Josiah Conder (1824); Music by Nathan Partain (2003)*

## *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*His name shall be called  
Prince of Peace*

*~ Isaiah 9:6 ~*



*The wolf will live with the lamb...the calf  
and the lion and the yearling  
together; and  
a little child will lead them.*

*~ Isaiah 11:6 ~*



*Old Orchard Church*

*December 23, 2012 — 10:15-11:50 a.m.*

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.**

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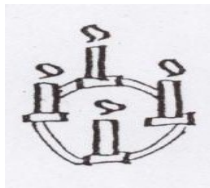
# Celebrating the Coming of Jesus

## Special Children's Worship

*Once in royal David's city,  
stood a lowly cattle shed;  
Where a mother laid her baby,  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.*

*Jesus is our childhood's pattern,  
Day by day like us he grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us he knew:  
And he feeleth for our sadness,  
And he shareth in our gladness.*

—Cecil Alexander (1848)



## Scripture Readings

Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

New Testament Reading: Luke 2:8-14

# The Festival of Children

CHRISTMAS is called "the children's festival." Surely not because they look happily forward to sweets and new toys and the glitter of the lighted Christmas tree, but because they can and do **receive the wonderful story as it should be received: in simple unquestioning faith.** We who have left our childhood far behind are likely to feel a certain wistfulness at the sight of their joy and to wish that we could turn back the years for just the one night, so we could mingle with them on equal terms. And why should we not do so? Because we are now hardheaded, disillusioned, matter-of-fact dwellers in a cold everyday world and know no other? Too bad for us if that is so. Too bad if the "common sense" and the "reasoning powers" that we have developed through our contacts with this shadow world have so encrusted our nature that we are locked up in our little shell and can no longer hear the voices that speak to us from the great world of true reality beyond. Children can hear those voices, and therefore the Word of eternal Truth says: "**Except ye become as little children. . . .**" But that also indicates that such a reversal can take place, that we can recover what as children we had. We can become children of God in every sense, thanks to the transforming might of His Spirit. And then, in the blessed Yule days ahead, we shall again be able, with the clear eye of the child, to catch glimpses of the unearthly glory that streams out as the angels draw aside the curtains of heaven to announce God's wondrous Gift to us.



—O.P. Kretzmann



*And so Joseph went from the town of Nazareth to David's town of Bethlehem*