

## To us a child is born

1. The nice thing about the lessons & carols service is that the combination of the readings and the songs give us both the story and the depth of meaning of the coming of Christ. His birth was a day that changed the course of human history. His coming was so significant that it even changed the way we date history.
2. About this time every year, all of the cable networks like History Channel and Nat Geo, and any number of magazines release their predictable, “Who was Jesus, really?” or, “Secrets of the Bible revealed,” type stories. Their aim: to undermine traditional Christian belief. But this ongoing effort, year after year, shows the lasting effects of the coming of Christ. Even 2000 years later he is still changing the world.
3. As a people, the human race long ago rejected God. Even when he set aside Israel as his chosen people, they continued to reject him again and again. The prophet Isaiah wrote his prophecies over 700 years before Jesus’ birth. He wrote about punishment that God would send on his people because of their unfaithfulness; but he also wrote about God’s own solution to their sin problem.
  - a. Some of the most beautiful parts of scripture come from Isaiah’s prophecies about the Messiah whom God would eventually send.
  - b. Listen to these beautiful words of prophecy: [6] For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
4. These words of the prophet were indeed fulfilled in the birth of Jesus, the Christ. God fulfilled all of his promises of deliverance, of sending a king, and of sending a savior, by sending his own son into the world.
5. Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor because his wisdom is beyond mere human wisdom. He leads us and guides with all the wisdom of heaven. Jesus is Mighty God. This title tells us that Jesus is far more than just a human being or a great teacher. He is the eternal God of the universe. Jesus is Everlasting Father. This can be a confusing title to understand, but it is a title of kingship. It isn’t saying that Jesus is God the Father. It is saying that Jesus is the everlasting King of his people.
6. And Jesus is the Prince of Peace. So far we have yet to see the fullness of the peace which he brings, but for those who are his own, he has brought peace to our very souls. Yet it will be his role as Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, and the everlasting King reigning over heaven and earth that will ensure peace in the age to come.
7. All of this comes from a tiny baby in a manger, born 2000 years ago. He changed the course of human history. He has changed the course of many of our lives.
  - a. Salvation- forgiveness of sins and reconciliation to God the Father is the gift he wants to give each of us. My prayer is that each of you have or will receive that free gift.