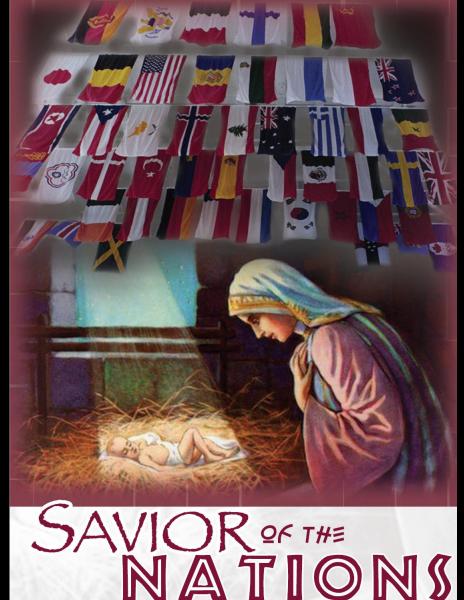
Grace Lutheran Church Worship Service

December 24, 2017 Christmas Eve Worship



Savior of the Nations



Choir Lo, How A Rose

Processional Hymn

TLH 85: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Congregation: Stanzas 1-3,5; Children: Stanza 4

TLH 85 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come Congregation

- 1. From heav'n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev'ry home; Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing:
- 2. "To you this night is born a child Of Mary, chosen virgin mild; This little child, of lowly birth, Shall be the joy of all the earth.

TLH 85 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come Congregation

3. "This is the Christ, our God and Lord, Who in all need shall aid afford; He will Himself your Savior be From all your sins to set you free."

TLH 85 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come Children

4. Welcome to earth, Thou noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest! Thou com'st to share my misery; What thanks shall I return to Thee?

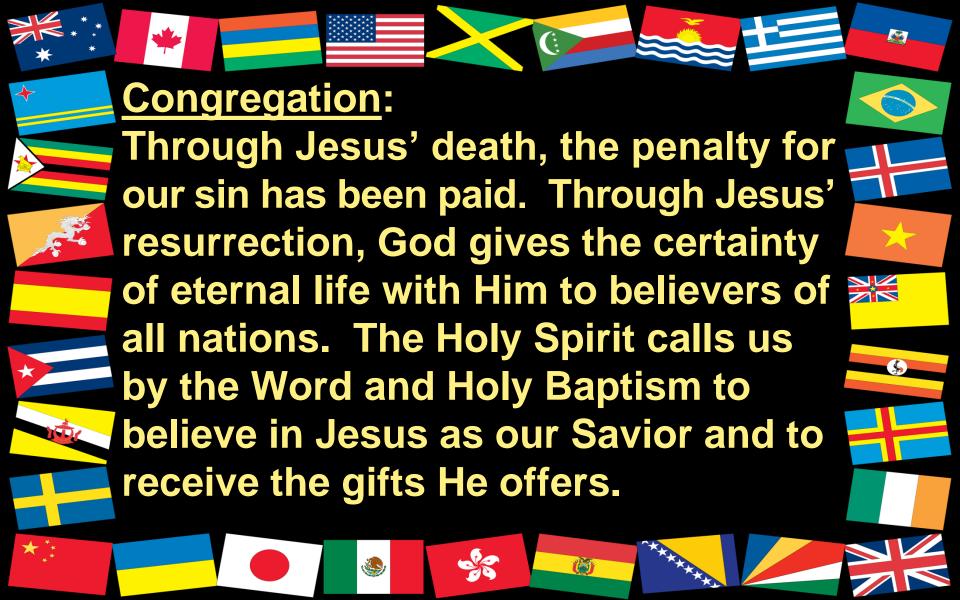
TLH 85 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come Congregation

5. Glory to God in highest heaven, Who unto us His Son hath given! While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.



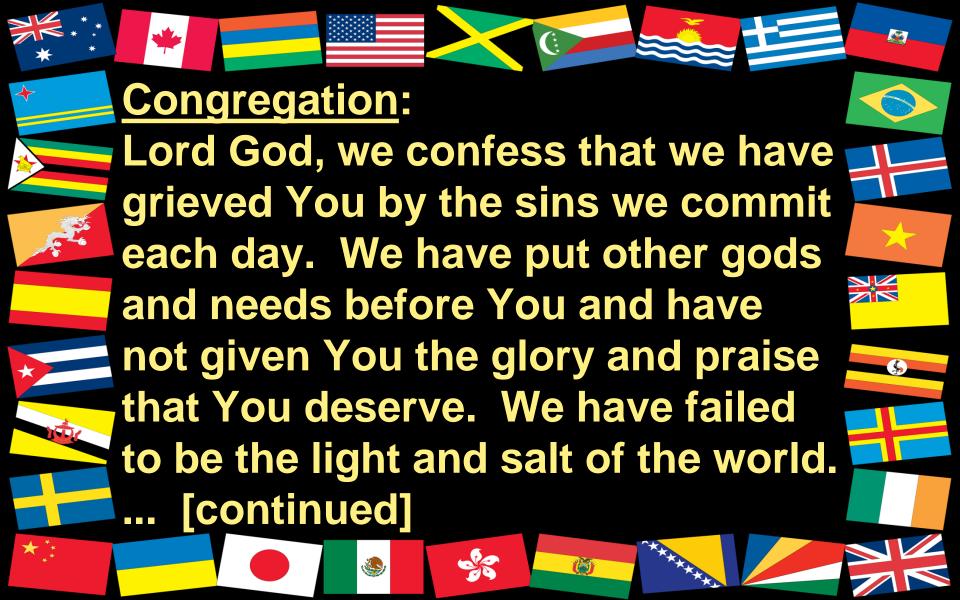




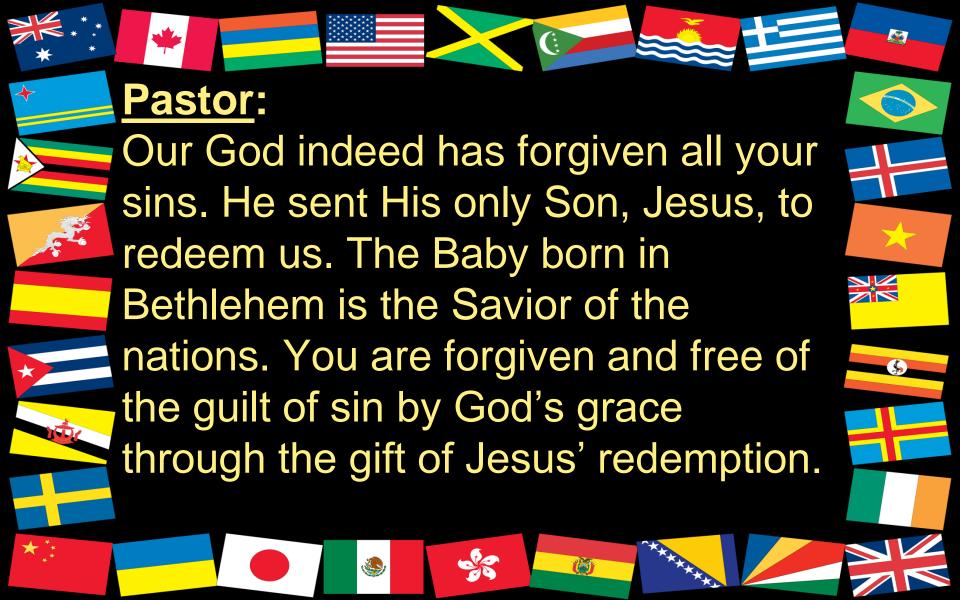








Forgive us for our weakness in sharing Your love with others. Forgive us for withholding the **Good News of Your salvation from** people around us. Lord, forgive us our sins, strengthen our faith, and transform us by Your Holy Spirit to be Your witness to the ends of the earth.





Scripture Reading

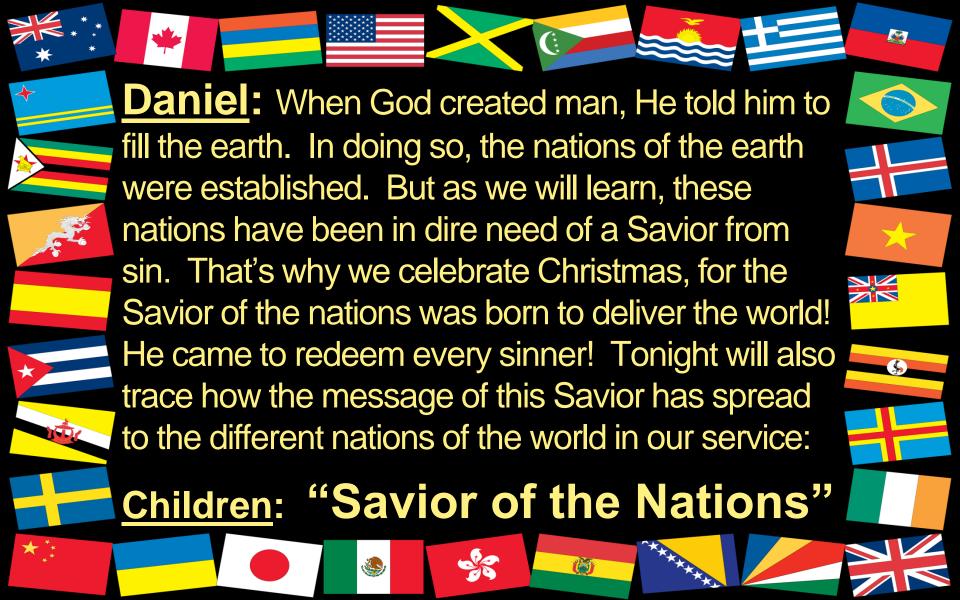
John 1:1-14



SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS Introduction







Congregation Hymn

TLH 95: Savior of the Nations, Come

TLH 95 Savior of the Nations, Come

- 1. Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, make here Thy home! Marvel now, O heaven and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.
- 2. Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh--Woman's Offspring, pure and fresh.



TLH 95 Savior of the Nations, Come

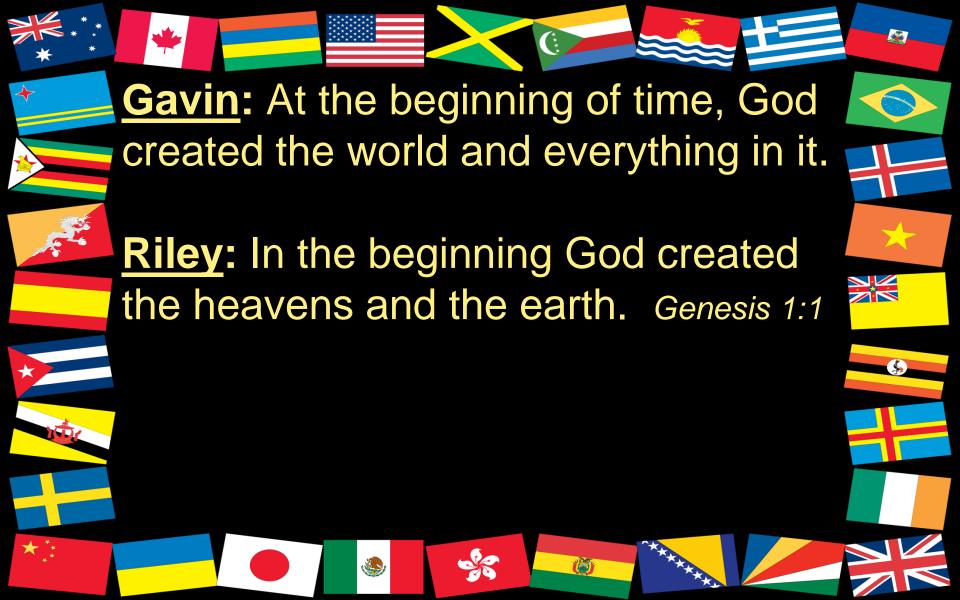
- 3. Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child Of the Virgin undefiled!
 Though by all the world disowned, Still to be in heaven enthroned.
- 4. From the Father forth He came And returneth to the same, Captive leading death and hell-High the song of triumph swell!



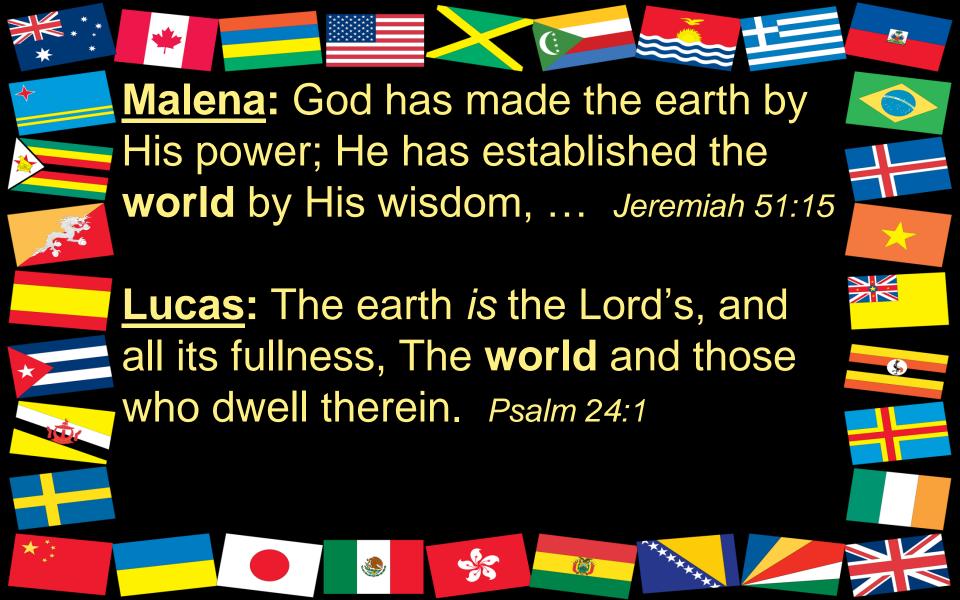
SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS The World Ruined

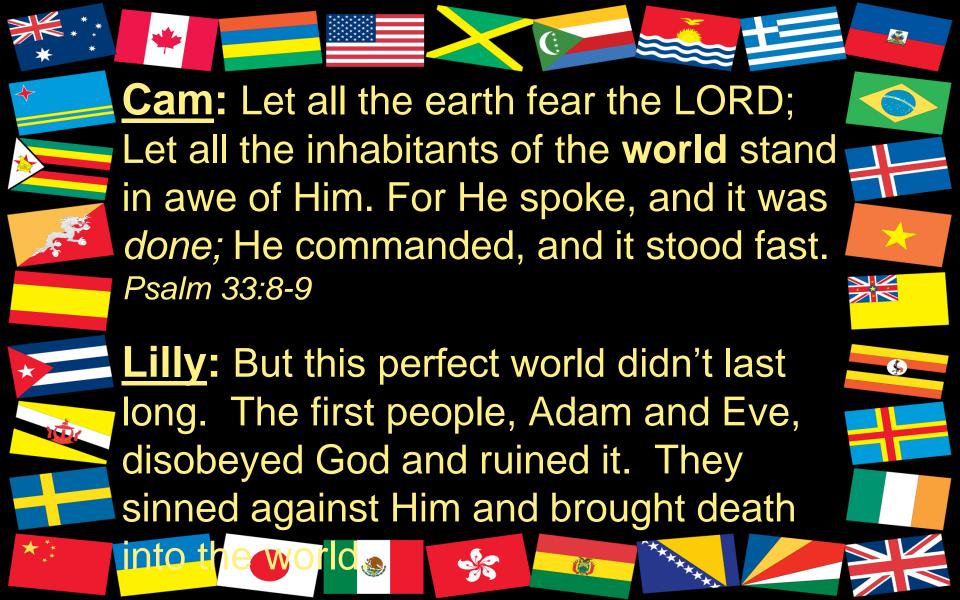


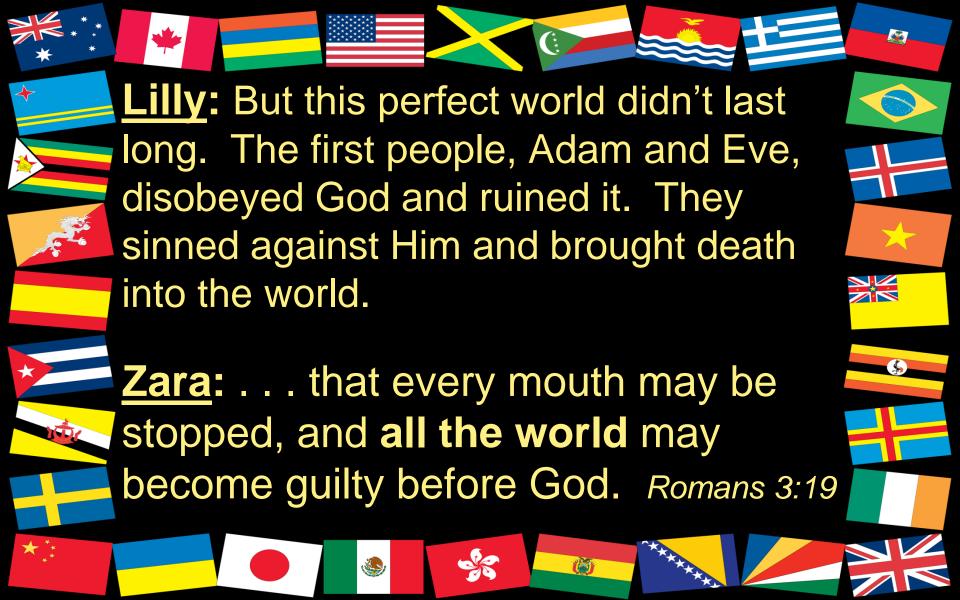














Children Hymn

(Pre-School – Grade 3)

Jesus Loves the Little Children

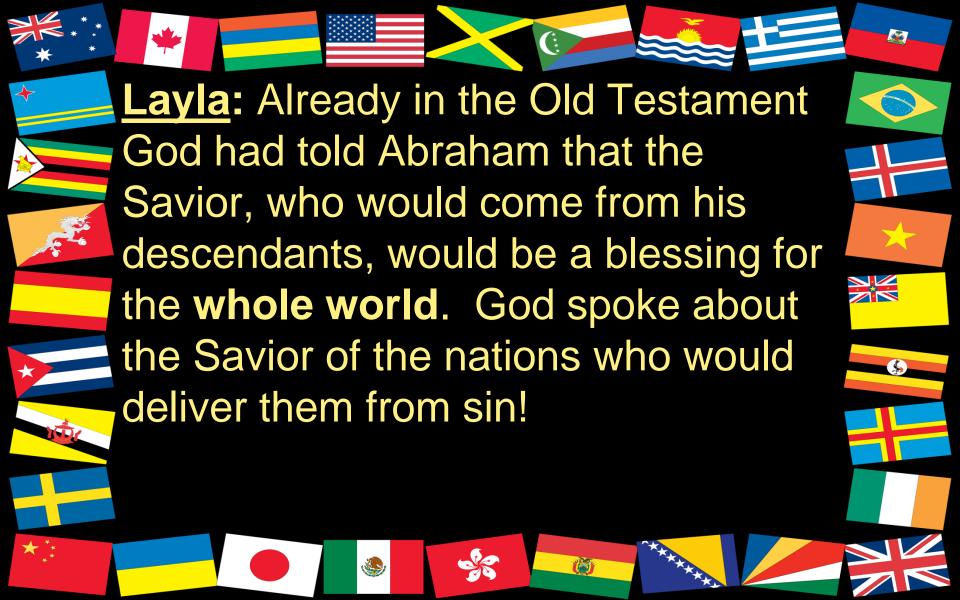
Jesus Loves the Little Children

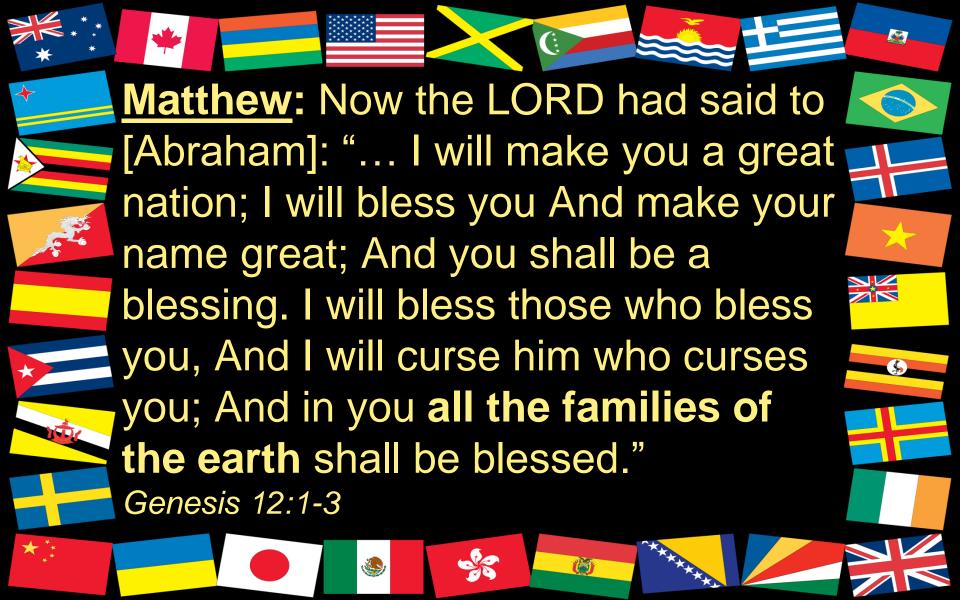
- 1. Jesus loves the little children,
 All the children of the world.
 Ev'ry child in ev'ry land,
 Jesus holds them in His hand.
 Jesus loves the little children of the world.
- 2. Jesus died for little children,
 All the children of the world.
 Ev'ry child in ev'ry land,
 Jesus holds them in His hand.
 Jesus died for little children of the world.

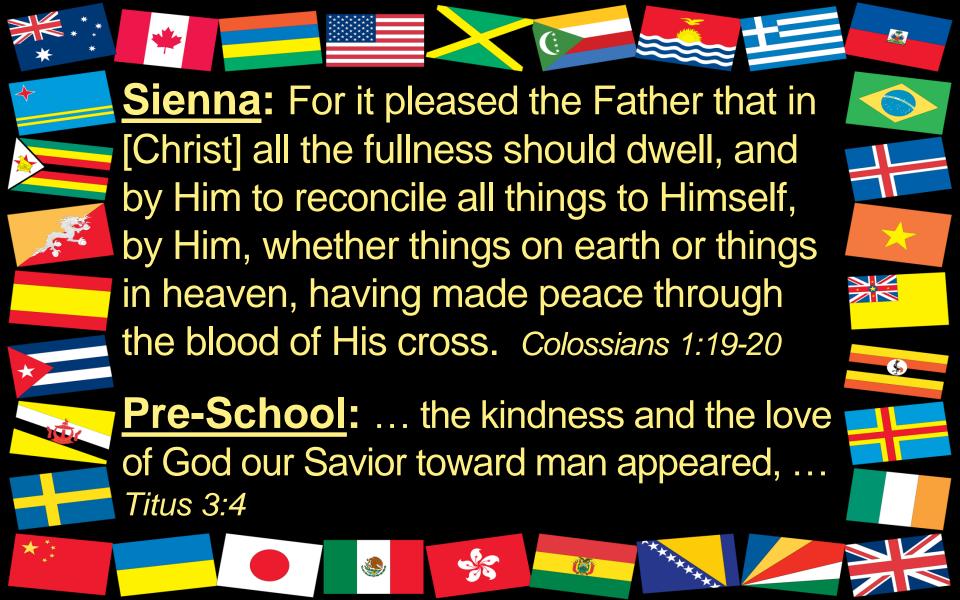
Jesus Loves the Little Children

3. Jesus rose for little children,
All the children of the world.
Ev'ry child in ev'ry land,
Jesus holds them in His hand.
Jesus rose for little children of the world.









CDS Children and Choir

+A Child of Hope

A Child of Hope

1. A Child of hope in a world of strife; A Child of hope who will bring new life; A Child of hope in a world of hate; A Child of hope who will elevate The hearts of men to know His love; Such is this Child, this Babe, this Son of God.



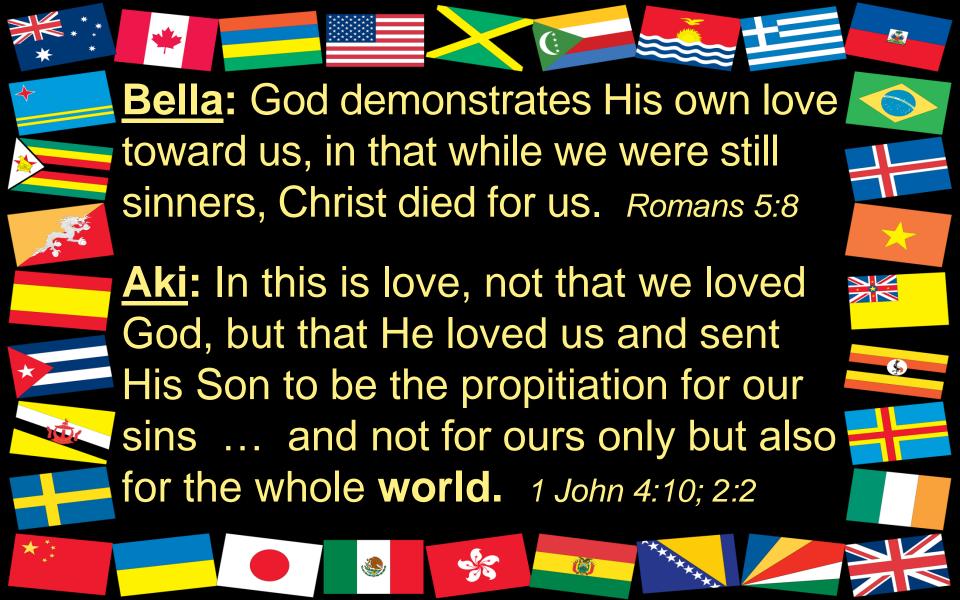
A Child of Hope

2. A Child of hope for our sin's release; A Child of hope who will bring us peace; A Child of hope who will ease our pain; A Child of hope who will help us gain The right to call our souls His own; Such is this Child, this Babe, this Son of God.

A Child of Hope

3. A Child of hope in a world of grief; A Child of hope for our unbelief; A Child of hope in a world of fear; A Child of hope who will bring us near; The source of life upon the throne; Such is this Child, this Babe, this Son of God.





Nicole: [Christ] was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ... John 1:9-12

Alexandra: Through the missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul, Christianity spread quite quickly in the Roman Empire. Much of early Christianity was influenced by the Roman culture. This includes Spain. Tradition holds that the Apostle Paul brought the message of salvation in Christ to Spain after he was released from prison in Rome. It is from Spain that came one of the earliest known Christmas carols, "Of the Father's Love Begotten."

Congregation Hymn

TLH 98: Of the Father's Love Begotten

TLH 98 Of the Father's Love Begotten

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.**

TLH 98 Of the Father's Love Begotten

2. Oh, that birth forever blessed 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.**

TLH 98 Of the Father's Love Begotten

3. O ye heights of heaven, adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing; Powers, 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.**



SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS The World Delivered





Lucee: For almost two thousand years, believers of every nation have loved to hear the simple story of Jesus' birth, the story of how He began His mission to deliver the world. Let us listen again how God gave the most amazing gift of all, a Savior for all nations!

Children: And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David;)

To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2: 1-7

Natalie: The first news we have of Christianity coming to Germany was in the latter half of the second century. Within 100 years of the missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul, Iraneus brought the Gospel into what is now Germany. In the following centuries the Christian Church grew until it became the main religion in Germany. Believers in Germany have rejoiced Jesus' birth ever since. Many of our favorite Christmas carols are from Germany, including "Silent Night."



Congregation: Stanza 3; Children: Stanzas 1-2

TLH 646 Silent Night

Children

1. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht, Alles schläft, einsam wacht Nur das heilege Elternpaar, Das im Stalle zu Bethlehem war. Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh! Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!



TLH 646 Silent Night

Children

2. Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia,
Christ, the Savior is born!
Christ, the Savior is born!

TLH 646 Silent Night

Congregation

3. Silent Night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Lucee: Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of 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. Isaiah 9:6-7

Nicole: "Feliz Navidad!" As the Gospel was established early in Spain, so it continued to spread to all nations of the world. As the European countries began to expand and explore the world, so the Gospel expanded as well. The Spanish, in particular, secured Central and South America. As a result, people in the new world began singing their praise to the Child born in Bethlehem to be their Savior. The following Spanish carol is sung in Mexico and parts of South America.

CDS Children

A La Nanita Nana

A La Nanita Nana

A la nanita nana, nanita ea, nanita ea, Sleep, sleep my little Jesus, May peace attend Thee, may peace attend Thee. – To the world, little Savior, new hope thou'rt bringing. All the world, little Savior, Thy praises singing, God's angels hov'ring o'er Thee chant alleluia. A la nanita nana, nanita ea.

Children: And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:8-14



TLH 94: Hark! The Herald
Angels Sing

Congregation: Stanza 2-3; Children: Stanza 1

Children

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies; With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Congregation

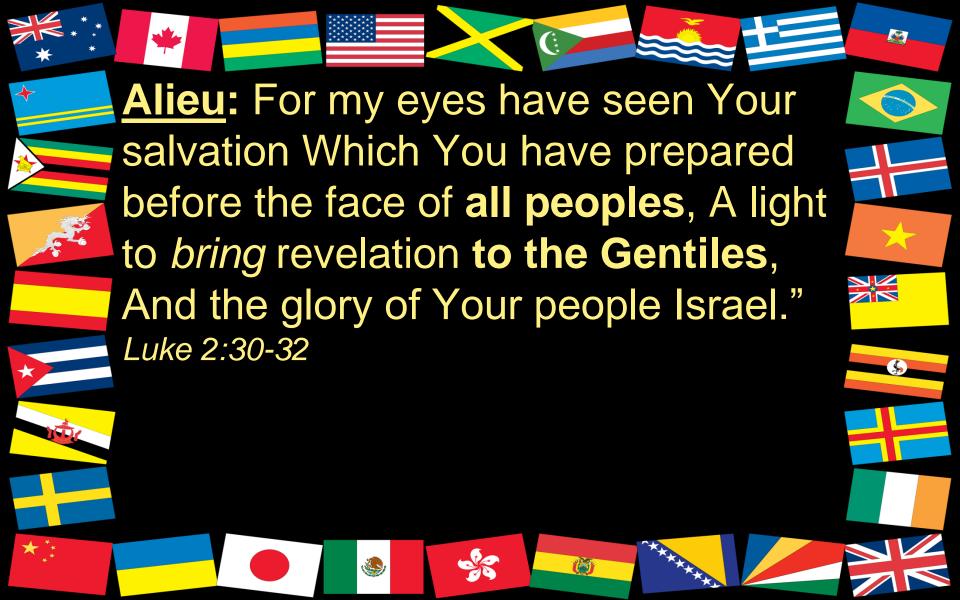
2. Hail, the heav'nly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings. Mild He leaves His throne on high, Born that man no more may die; Born to raise the sons of earth; Born to give them second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Congregation

3. Come, Desire of nations, come, Fix in us Thy humble home; Oh, to all Thyself impart, Formed in each believing heart! Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Children: And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us." And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. Luke 2:15-20



Matthew: The Gospel steadily spread across Europe and into France. By the year 500 AD, much of Europe had come to hear the message of Peace of Salvation in Christ Jesus. France played an important part in preservation and spread of Christianity through the ages. Caroling is an ancient tradition in France. Many of our favorite Christmas carols came from France, including "Angels We Have Heard on High," "The First Noel," and "The Divine Christ-Child."

Children Hymn

He is Born, The Divine Christ Child

Chorus: He is born, the divine Christ Child. Play on the drum, play the flute and violin. He is born, the divine Christ Child. Sing we all of the Savior's birth.

Through long ages of the past,
 Prophets have foretold His coming;
 Through long ages of the past,
 Now the time has come at last. (Chorus)



- Chorus: He is born, the divine Christ Child. Play on the drum, play the flute and violin. He is born, the divine Christ Child. Sing we all of the Savior's birth.
- Oh, how lovely, oh, how pure.
 Is this perfect Child of heaven.
 Oh, how lovely, oh, how pure,
 Gracious gift of God, to man. (Chorus)



Chorus: He is born, the divine Christ Child. Play on the drum, play the flute and violin. He is born, the divine Christ Child. Sing we all of the Savior's birth.

 Jesus, Lord of all the world, Coming as a child among us, Jesus, Lord of all the world, Grant to us Thy heav'nly peace. (Chorus)



Chorus: He is born, the divine Christ Child. Play on the drum, play the flute and violin. He is born, the divine Christ Child. Sing we all of the Savior's birth.

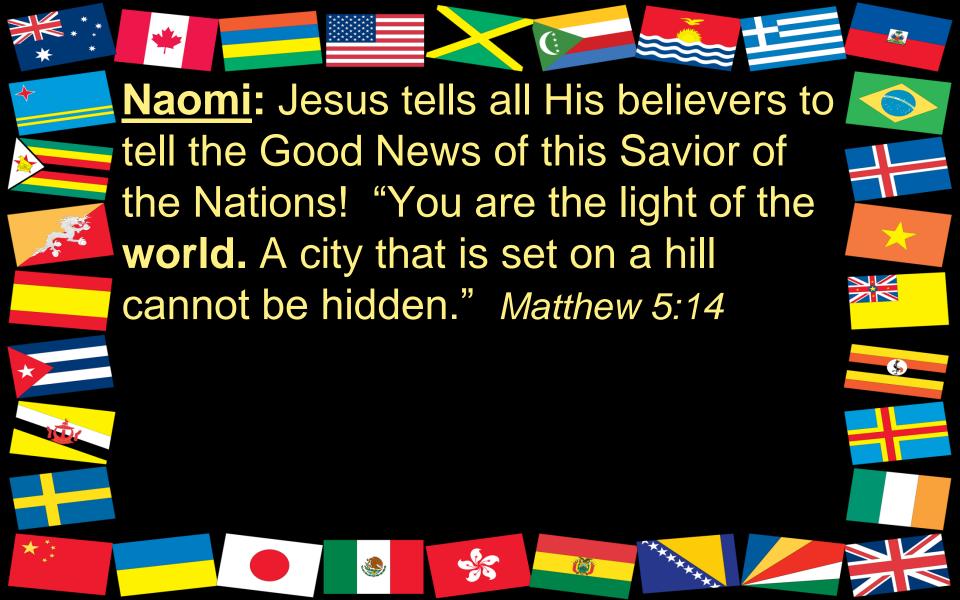


SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS The World Responds

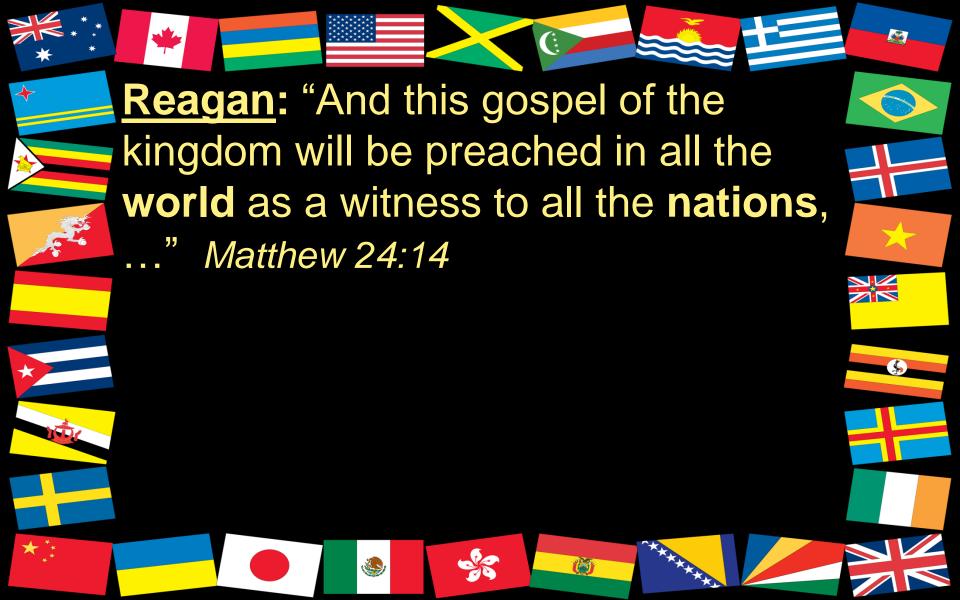


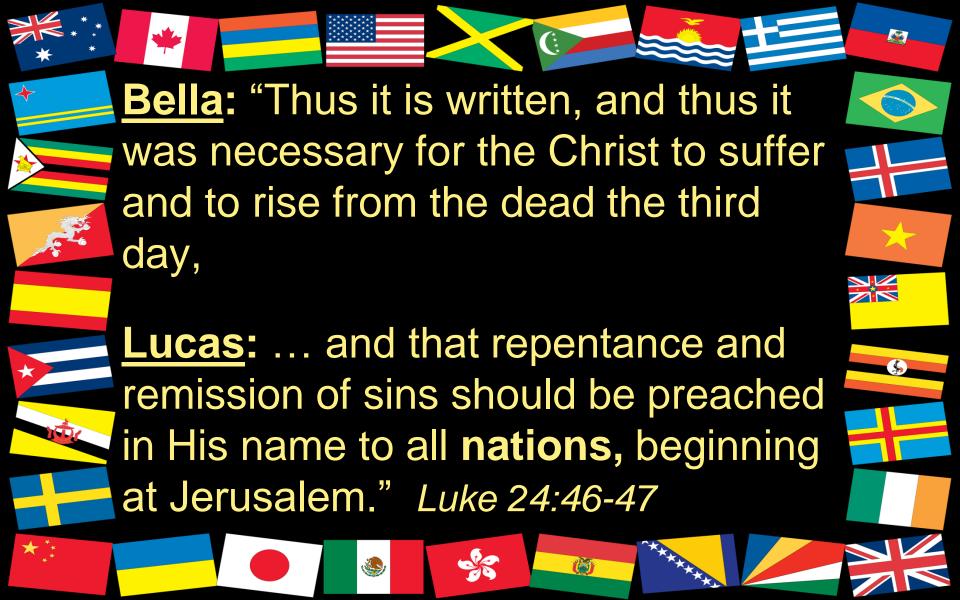


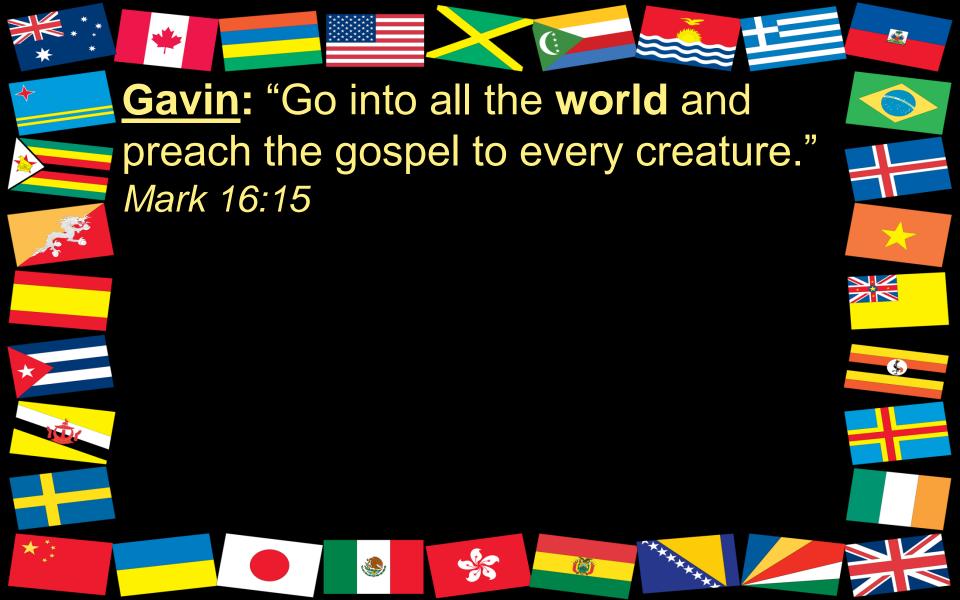
Elaina: Now, over 2,000 years after Jesus' birth, the message of the Savior is still to reach other nations to the ends of the earth. Today, throughout the world, there are millions who still do not know the one Savior of the Nations. God also wants these people whom He created and for whom He died to know and worship Him.



Cam: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20







Grace: Ireland is a nation that was steeped in paganism. However, the missionary efforts of Patrick during the fifth century have been considered that which brought Christianity to this area of the world. Ireland has also been the source of Celtic music, including the Christmas carol, "Once in Royal David's City." The oldest known Celtic carol, the Wexford Carol, dates back to the twelfth century.

CDS Children

Wexford Carol

Wexford Carol

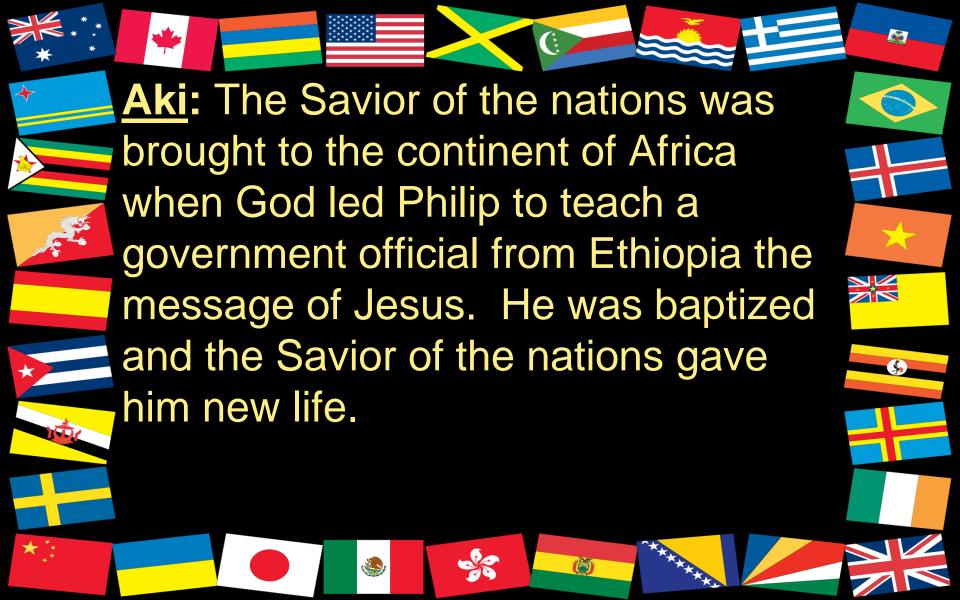
1. Good people all, this Christmas time, Consider well and bear in mind What our good God for us has done, In sending His belovèd Son. With Mary boldly we should pray To God with love this Christmas Day; In Bethlehem upon the morn There was the blest Messiah born.

Wexford Carol

2. Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep; To whom God's angels did appear Which put the shepherds in great fear. "Prepare and go," the angels said, "To Bethlehem, be not afraid; For there you'll find, this happy morn, A princely Babe, sweet Jesus born."

Wexford Carol

3. With thankful heart and joyful mind, The shepherds went the babe to find, And as God's angel has foretold, They did our Savior Christ behold. Within a manger He was laid, And by His side the virgin maid Attending to the Lord of Life, Who came on earth to end all strife.

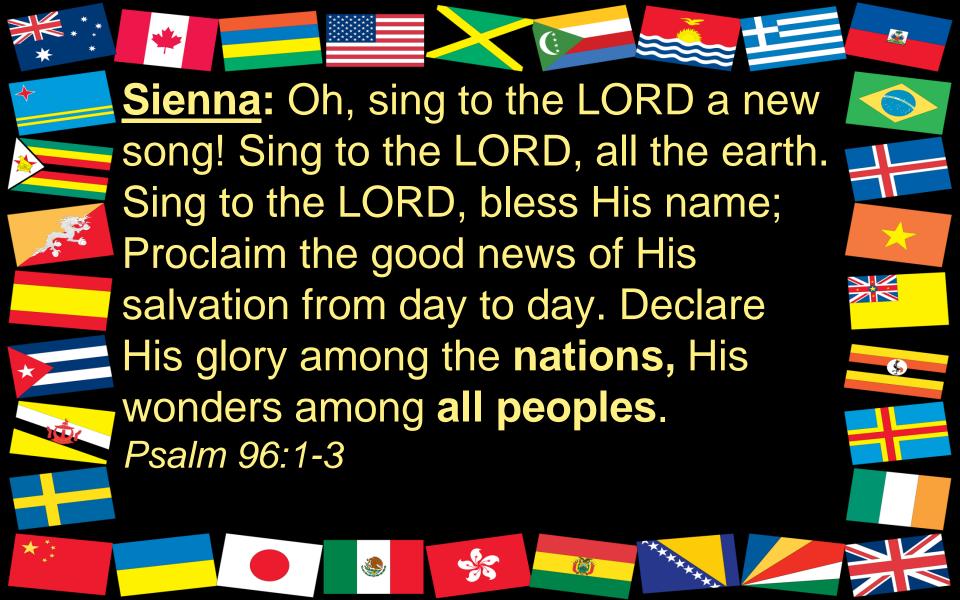


Natalie: The message of the Gospel spread across most of North Africa. Christianity became the main religion for over five centuries until Islam drove out the faith in Christ. It wasn't until the Europeans began trade routes in Africa in the 17 and 1800's that the Gospel began to shine in that dark world. Today we have several mission fields and contacts in six countries of Africa: Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana, and Liberia.



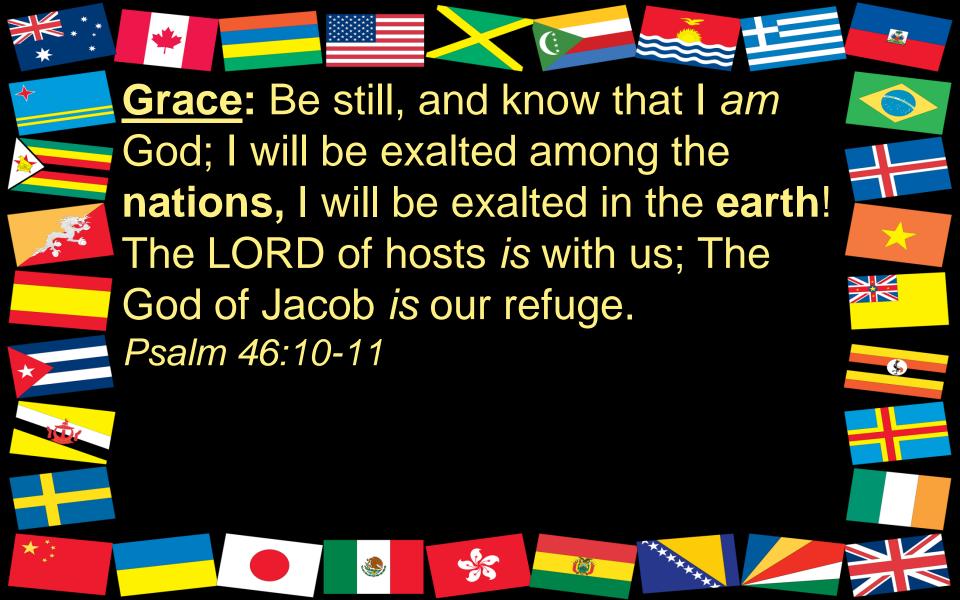
Trio The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

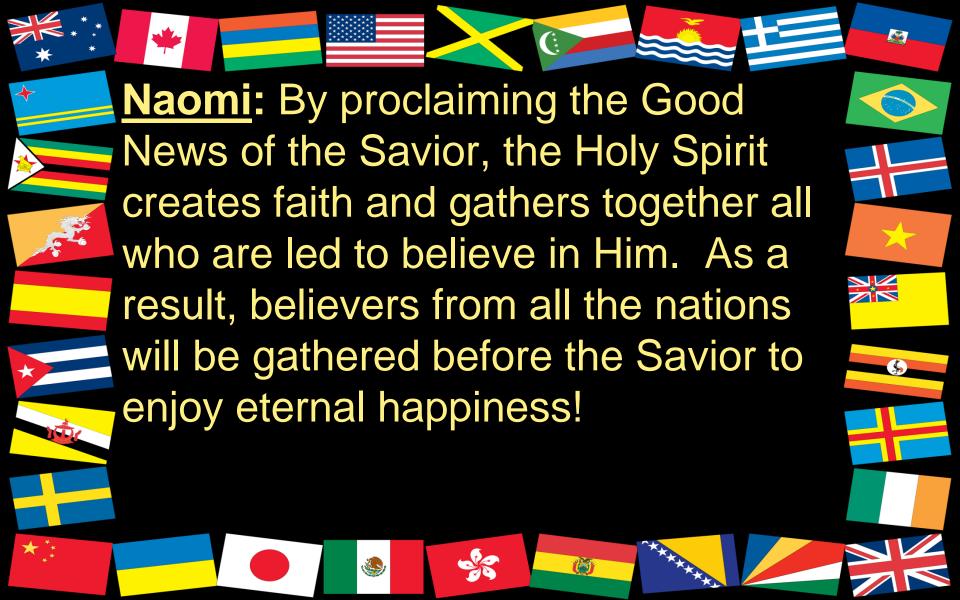
Alexandra: Sing to the LORD, all the earth; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is also to be feared above all gods. 1 Chronicles 16:23-25





Alieu: Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth. Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns; The world also is firmly established, It shall not be moved; He shall judge the peoples righteously." Psalm 96:10 Layla: Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy! For You shall judge the people righteously, And govern the nations on earth. Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. Psalm 67:3-5





Elaina: After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all **nations**, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" Revelation 7:9-10

Daniel: Over the years as immigrants made their way to America, Christianity spread with them. This next song grew out of the days of Negro slavery in America. This is an amazing story showing the power of the Gospel. Even in the most miserable conditions, many of these slaves found their joy and strength in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They sang their lively praise to God in the fields as they worked. To this day, Christians in America tell the message of Jesus on the mountains, over the hills and everywhere.



Chorus: Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere; Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night, Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a hold light. (Chorus)



- Chorus: Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere; Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.
- 2. The shepherds feared and trembled When Io, above the earth Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. (Chorus)

Chorus: Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere; Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.

3. Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. (Chorus)



Chorus: Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere; Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.

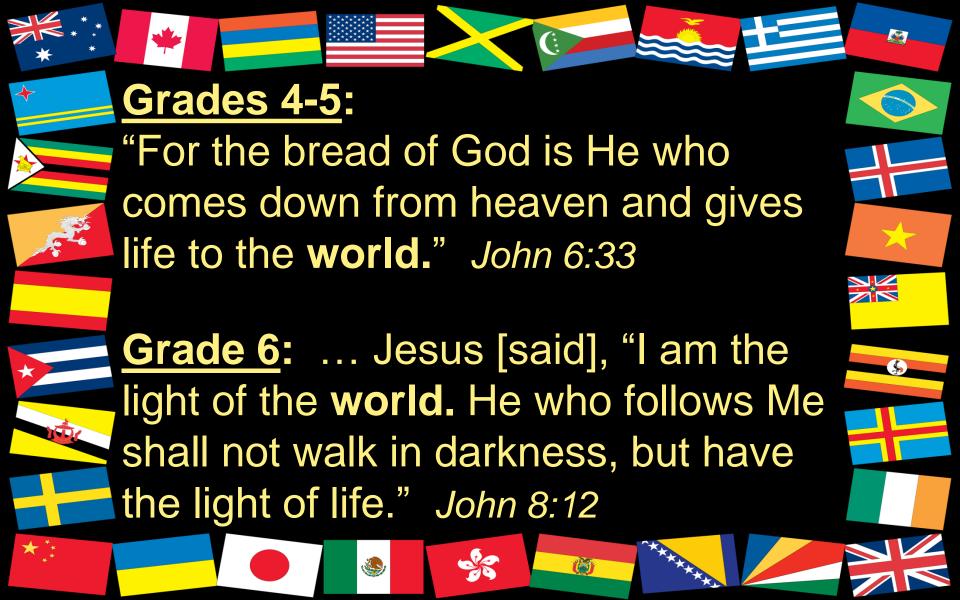


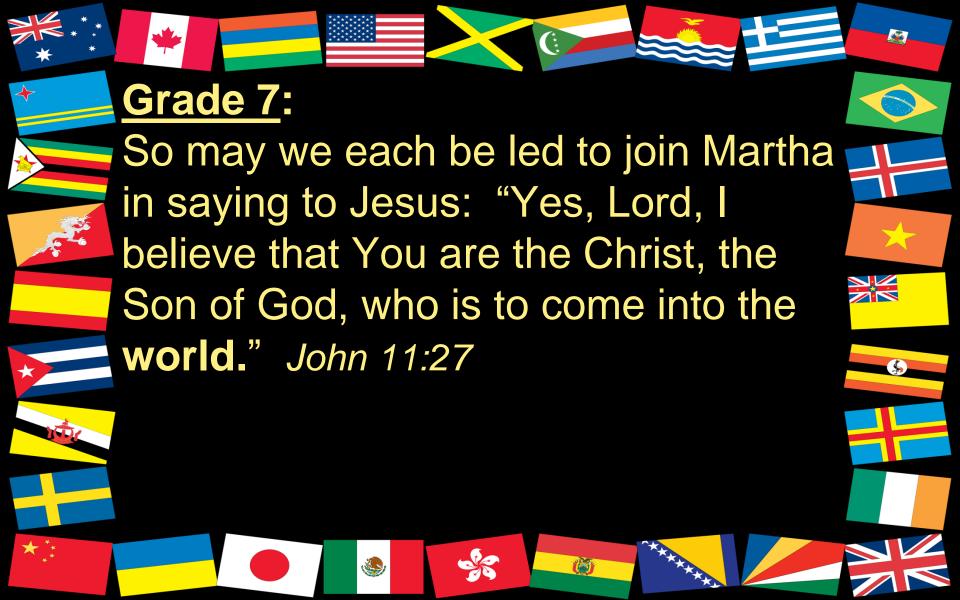
SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS Conclusion

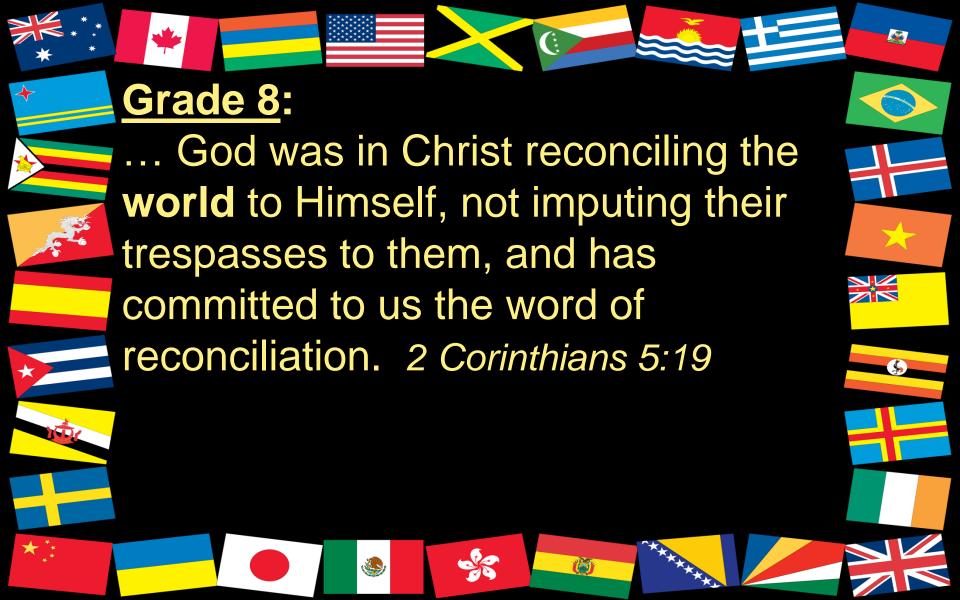














Congregation Hymn

TLH 95: Savior of the Nations, Come

TLH 95 Savior of the Nations, Come

- 5. Thou, the Father's only Son,
 Hast o'er sin the victory won.
 Boundless shall Thy kingdom be;
 When shall we its glories see?
- 6. Brightly doth Thy manger shine, Glorious is its light divine. Let not sin o'ercloud this light; Ever be our faith thus bright.



TLH 95 Savior of the Nations, Come

7. Praise to God the Father sing,
Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be
Ever and eternally.





Closing Prayer and Benediction

Recessional Hymn

TLH 87: Joy to the World, the Lord is Come

Congregation: Stanzas 2-4; Children: Stanza 1

Children

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Congregation

2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Congregation

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

Congregation

4. He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

Savior of the Nations



