

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Part 3: Worshiping | Luke 2:1-20
 Pastor Eric Yee

Worship the only God who is worthy of our worship.

I. Worship the only God who sovereignly humbled himself (vv. 1-7)

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to 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, who was with child.

Matthew 2:4-6 = ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he [King Herod] inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
 are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
 for from you shall come a ruler
 who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



Philippians 2:6-8 (NLT) = ⁶ Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

II. Worship the only God who brings peace (vv. 8-14)

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.

¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Matthew 1:21 = She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for **he will save his people from their sins.**"

¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and 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 among those with whom he is pleased!"

Hebrews 11:6 = And **without faith it is impossible to please him**, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Sin entered the world to deface and mar everything that had been made. Because we became estranged from *God*, we also are alienated from our true *selves*, and from *each other*. Our primal self-absorption has led to profound *social* evil—to war, crime, family breakdowns, oppression, and injustice. When we lost our relationship with *God*, the whole world stopped "working right." The world is filled with hunger, sickness, aging, and *physical* death. **Because our relationship with God has broken down, shalom is gone—spiritually, psychologically, socially, and physically.** (Tim Keller)

III. Worship the only God by testifying and treasuring (vv. 15-20)

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.

¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Life Application

This Christmas, spend set-aside time worshiping the only God who sovereignly humbled himself for our sake and who brings peace (or *shalom*) to undeserving sinners like us.