

Christmas Eve Sermon
Luke 2:1-7
December 24, 2020 HUMC

I would like to start with a Christmas Alphabet Poem whose author is unknown.

A Christmas Alphabet Poem

Author Unknown

A is for Angels, appearing so bright, telling of Jesus that first Christmas night.
“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host.” Luke 2:13.

B is for Bethlehem, crowded and old, birthplace of Jesus by prophet foretold.
“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel.” Micah 5:2.

C is for Cattle, their manger His bed, there in the trough where He laid His head.
“And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger.” Luke 2:7.

D is for David and his ancient throne promised forever to Jesus alone.
“He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David.” Luke 1:32.

E is for East, where shone the bright star which Magi on camels followed afar.
“Behold, there came wise men from the east asking ‘Where is the king of the Jews?’” Matthew 2:1,2.

F is for Frankincense, with myrrh and gold, brought by the Wise Men as Matthew has told.
“And when they had opened their treasurers, they presented unto him gifts gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” Matthew 2:11.

G is for God, who from heaven above sent down to mankind the Son of His love.
“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16.

H is for Herod, whose murderous scheme was told to Joseph in a nocturnal dream.

“The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise and take the young child and his mother and flee into Egypt... for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.” Matthew 2:13.

I is for Immanuel, “God with us,” for Christ brought man back to the Father’s house.

“Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14.

J is for Joseph so noble and just, obeying God’s word with absolute trust.

“Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife.” Matthew 1:24.

K is for King. A true king He would be, coming in power and authority.

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem; behold, the King cometh unto thee; he is just, and having salvation.” Zechariah 9:9.

L is for Love that He brought down to earth God fleshed in lowly birth.

“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.” 1 John 4:9.

M is for Mary, His mother so brave, counting God faithful and mighty to save.

“And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.” Luke 1:38.

N is for Night, when the Savior was born for nations of earth and people forlorn.

“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.” Luke 2:8.

O is for Omega, meaning “the last;” He’s eternal present, future and past.

“I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.” Revelation 22:13.

P is for Prophets, when living on earth foretold His redemption and blessed birth.

“I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a sceptre will rise out of Israel.” Numbers 24:17.

Q is for Quickly, as shepherds who heard hastened to act on that heavenly word.

“And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.” Luke 2:16.

R is for Rejoice. The sorrow of sin is banished forever when Jesus comes in.

“And you will have joy and gladness; and many will rejoice at his birth.”

Luke 1:14.

S is for Savior. To be this He came; the angel of God assigned Him His name.

“She will bring forth a son, and you will call his name JESUS, for he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21.

T is for Tidings of joy, not of danger, telling of Him who was laid in a manger.

“And the angel said unto them, Fear not for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.” Luke 2:10.

U is for Us, to whom Jesus was given to show us the way and take us to heaven.

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11.

V is for Virgin, foretold by the sage, God’s revelation on prophecy’s page.

“Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”

Matthew 1:23.

W is for Wonderful, His works and His words, the King of all Kings, the Lord of all Lords.

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given... and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6.

X is for Christ. It’s X in the Greek, Anointed, Messiah, mighty, yet meek.

“God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power.”

Acts 10:38.

Y is for Yes, called God’s Yes in His Word; God’s answer to all is Jesus the Lord.

“For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.” 2 Corinthians 1:20.

Z is for Zeal as it burned in Christ’s heart. Lord, by thy Spirit to us zeal impart.

“And his disciples remembered that it was written, the zeal of your house has eaten me up.” John 2:17.

Luke tells us In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while^[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

In the second semester of my senior year at Plymouth State College in NH, I worked as a night clerk for the old Plymouth Inn, which was a very old 50 room white, wooden hotel in the center of town. It was owned by Calvin Carpenter. At the time, 40 of the rooms were already taken with permanent guests, which left 10 rooms to rent per night.

In exchange for free rent and a few extra dollars, I worked every third night from 7 pm to 7 am. There was a room in the back where I could sleep, but it wasn't what I would call a restful sleep. I would be woken up at all hours of the night by a loud doorbell above my bed.

But there were some occasions where the inn was filled to capacity and we had to turn people away. But the inn did have some extra cots and my boss who was a devout Christian would often put up those who were destitute and had no money or who were just plain desperate.

Sometimes we put people in the hallways or in an empty storage room, so they could stay warm for the night. If the street person was known to him, he was known to even put him up in his own room with him.

During really cold days, it was common to see street people sitting by the Plymouth Inn fireplace just to stay warm.

Now if someone like Joseph and Mary had shown up at the Plymouth Inn and there was no room, my boss would have done something. He would find space to help that young couple.

I have to give the Bethlehem innkeeper credit, at least he found Joseph and Mary some space, even if it were in a stable.

Is Jesus knocking at the door of your heart? Have you made room in the inn of your heart?

We all know stories about children's Christmas pageants. Allow me to tell you about another.

This story is about Wally who was a rather large seven-year-old. Everyone wondered what role the teacher would give him in the annual Church Christmas play. Considering the fact that he had learning problems, the teacher gave Wally the role of the innkeeper with only a line to memorize. Wally of course was delighted. All he had to say was, "There is no room in the inn." That was it and he memorized it without any problem.

Then came the night of the program. The parents took their places. Every seat in the sanctuary was filled. A hush moved over the audience. The curtain opened and Scene One commenced. Mary and Joseph entered the stage and walked up to the inn. "Please sir, my wife is having a baby soon. Could we have a room for the night?"

Wally was ready for his line. He had rehearsed it all night. He began to say, "There is...and he hesitated. He started over again. "There is...and his mind went completely blank. Everyone was embarrassed for him.

Joseph saw Wally's confusion, so he decided to improvise and started to walk to the next inn.

Seeing Joseph walking away, Wally in desperation yelled out, "Look, there is plenty of room at my house, just come on home with me."

The question we need to ask ourselves. Can we say, "Come home with us?" Is our home a place where Jesus would feel comfortable?

If Jesus came tonight, would he feel comfortable in your house? Would he find hearts willingly serving him?

Would you feel comfortable sitting at your table, listening your conversations? Looking at your computer, television shows, reading your books?

Let us make this Christmas, a bright new start to a new year and make our homes, a home for Christ.

Let us pray.