

A detailed miniature diorama of a village scene. In the center, a large wooden house with a thatched roof is the focal point. A figure of the Virgin Mary is visible on the roof. To the left, a smaller brick house is partially visible. The foreground is filled with numerous small figures of people in various activities, some carrying loads, and a flock of white sheep. The background features evergreen trees and more buildings, creating a dense, lively village atmosphere. The entire scene is set against a light, overcast sky.

# O Holy Night

“The Thrill of Hope, the Weary World Rejoices”



# End of Year Financial Update

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- December Giving: ~\$360,000
- Remaining Need: ~\$16,000
- Amount to Hit Budgeted Revenue: ~\$116,000

## 2 Corinthians 8: 8-9

<sup>8</sup> I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. <sup>9</sup> For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

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## Hope Christmas Eve Services

*December 24th*

*Downtown Minneapolis - 9AM, No 11AM*

*Lowertown St. Paul - 6PM with First Baptist*

SUNDAY

GET CONNECTED











**BRYAN FREEMAN '03.** Bryan Freeman led one of the most unique careers in college hockey history. On his first career shift as a freshman, Freeman scored a goal. By the end of that 5-2 win over Vermont, the rookie defenseman had notched a hat trick, becoming the first Yale freshman to achieve the feat. He went on to become a defensive mainstay for the rest of his career with 105 more appearances in the Yale lineup, but he never scored another goal.



# O Holy Night

“Long lay the world in sin and error pining”



“Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth”



# O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

CCLI #1181771

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Oh holy night! The stars are brightly shining,

It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.

Long lay the world in sin and error pining,

Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,

**How is the birth of Jesus hope for a weary world?**





## Genesis 3:8

<sup>8</sup> Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

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## Genesis 3:23-24

<sup>23</sup> So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. <sup>24</sup> After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth . . . .



## Exodus 3:4-6

<sup>4</sup> And Moses said, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup> "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup> Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

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## Exodus 33:18-22

<sup>18</sup> Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.”

<sup>19</sup> And the Lord said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. <sup>20</sup> But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.”

## Exodus 33:18-22

<sup>21</sup> Then the Lord said, “There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. <sup>22</sup> When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. <sup>23</sup> Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen.”



## Deuteronomy 18:18

I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him.

## Hebrews 1:1

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways

...

## John 1:1, 14

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word [Jesus], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. . . . <sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

## Matthew 1:22-23

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet [Isaiah]: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” – which means, “God with us.”

## Hebrews 1:1-3

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways,

2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. 3

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

## Colossians 1:15-20

<sup>15</sup> The Son is the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For in him all  
things were created: things in heaven and on  
earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones  
or powers or rulers or authorities; all things  
have been created through him and for him.  
<sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things  
hold together. . . . .

## Colossians 1:15-20

<sup>19</sup> For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.



# Implications of God drawing near

- (1) Our holy, mighty, creator God loves you so much he took on flesh and was born as a baby.
- (2) God wants a personal, unmediated relationship with you.
- (3) God wants to take away the weariness of trying to be “good enough” and give you true rest.





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# Gospel Application

- (1) Have you responded to Jesus's invitation to draw near and put your trust in Him?
- (2) Are you hoping and rejoicing in "God with us" and all of its implications?



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