

**Christmas Day Service**  
**Christ, the King of Glory**  
Hebrews 1:1-12

**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. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. 4 So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.**

**The Son Superior to Angels**

**5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? 6 And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." 7 In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire."**

**8 But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."**

**10 He also says, "In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. 11 They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment.**

**12 You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end."**

The writer of the Hebrews opens up his letter with such an important point by drawing our attention to the way in which God spoke to His people in the past – it was through the prophets and in various ways. In the context of this letter, we must understand that he is not simply referring to the prophets, as in Isaiah, Elijah, Jeremiah or any of the others. Instead, the writer of the Hebrews is referring to all the writers of the Old Testament. This is because at all times, the Old Testament writers, by way of their testimony, are preparing the world for the coming of Christ.

For generations, those who lived under the Old Covenant, that is those who lived during the time of the Old Testament, what revelation did they have about God? It was in fact a fragmentary revelation, a revelation that was occasional, lacking in fulness and finality. God had used the Old Testament writers to convey His message to His people, be it a message of judgement, a message of hope, or a message about His own character – but again, these were fragmented. What they got were bits and pieces of the story but not the story in its entirety.

The question of course is what does this have to do with Christmas? Well in the most beautiful and influential moment, God revealed Himself totally through the Son – as the writer of the Hebrews says, **"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being."** The Son of God

was not born into a family of authority, of power or of wealth nor was He born in a luxurious house – He was born into a lowly family, born of the virgin Mary, the son of a carpenter born amongst the animals in a stable. Yet the glory of this humble birth is demonstrated here in Hebrews with seven descriptive statements about him:

1. **He is appointed as heir of all things** – Having accomplished the redemptive work of the Lord, He was exalted to the position of firstborn heir of God receiving His rightful inheritance of God's estate – that is everything.
2. **Through Him God made the universe** – that is to say that He is not simply a creation of God as some would believe, rather, He was actively involved in the creation of all things.
3. **He is the radiance of God's glory** – Christ is not a reflection of God's glory but, being the second person of the Trinity, is God and therefore radiates God's glory.
4. **He is the exact representation of God's being** – again, Christ is not simply an image of God but because He is God, He is the exact and authentic representation of God's being.
5. **He sustains all things** – there is a Greek mythical god named Atlas who is said to hold the world upon his shoulders – this is not Christ. What makes Christ's role in creation so incredible is that He dynamically holds together everything that exists within creation through Himself.
6. **He provides purification for our sins** – through the redemptive work of His sacrifice on the cross, Christ has offered creation purification from sin.
7. **He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven** – this indicates that the redemptive work of God has now been made complete and that He now rules over creation with God.

This is Christmas, a day of joyous celebration, a day where we come together in an attitude of remembrance and worship to glorify the Lord. With the birth of Christ, God has ushered in a new era, the Messianic era, where He has revealed Himself fully and completely to His people. With the birth of Christ, God initiated the final part of His redemptive plan for all of creation and it is only through this incredible and humble story, that this plan would be possible. We thank the Lord for the gift of His Son, for the hope that this brings for us, and for the promises He offers us through Christ of saviour.

Lincon Hardouin  
Trinity, Lynnwood  
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