

A young child, likely a toddler, is the central figure. They are wearing a dark blue or black jacket over a white collared shirt and a blue and white striped tie. On their head is a light blue aviator helmet with large, round, orange-rimmed goggles. A long, white, fuzzy scarf hangs down from the helmet. The child is smiling and looking towards the camera. They are holding a large, brown cardboard airplane wing in their right hand. The background is a dark, out-of-focus green. The text "Advent Joy" is overlaid in a green, outlined, cursive font.

Advent Joy

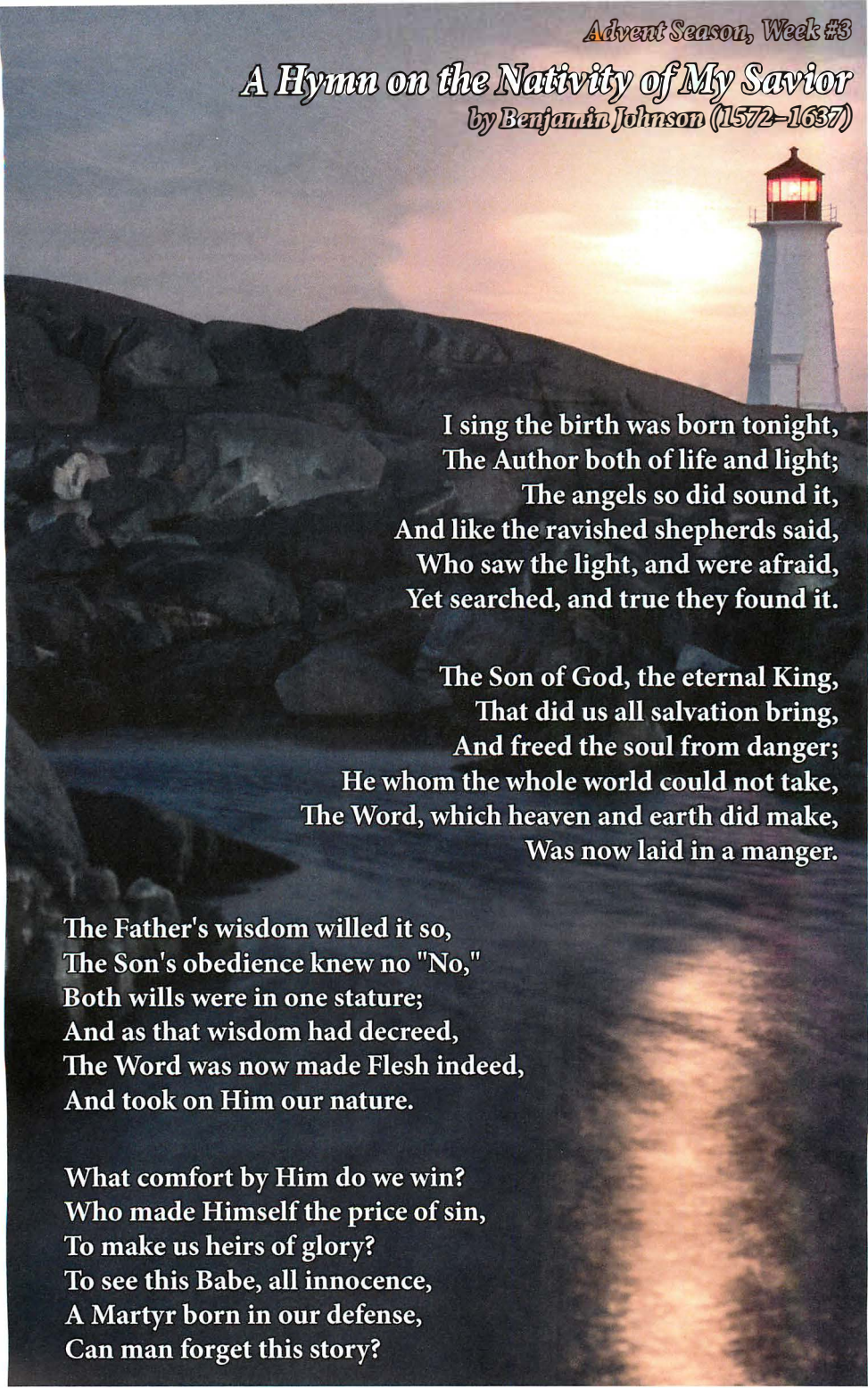
welcome to long beach alliance church

december 11, 2016

Advent Season, Week #3

A Hymn on the Nativity of My Savior

by Benjamin Johnson (1572-1637)



I sing the birth was born tonight,
The Author both of life and light;
The angels so did sound it,
And like the ravished shepherds said,
Who saw the light, and were afraid,
Yet searched, and true they found it.

The Son of God, the eternal King,
That did us all salvation bring,
And freed the soul from danger;
He whom the whole world could not take,
The Word, which heaven and earth did make,
Was now laid in a manger.

The Father's wisdom willed it so,
The Son's obedience knew no "No,"
Both wills were in one stature;
And as that wisdom had decreed,
The Word was now made Flesh indeed,
And took on Him our nature.

What comfort by Him do we win?
Who made Himself the price of sin,
To make us heirs of glory?
To see this Babe, all innocence,
A Martyr born in our defense,
Can man forget this story?

New Classes Beginning! *January 8, 2017*

Sign-Up In The Courtyard Today!

Hearing God

How to hear God's voice in every
circumstance of life

(FOR WOMEN ONLY)

Lead Teacher: Melinda Lankford

Telling God's Story

How to share God's great story

Lead Teachers: Scott Trickett & Matt Swaney

FOUNDATIONS II

How to live the truths of the
Christian faith in your life

Lead Teacher: John Cariveau

LBAC Year-to-Date Financial Report

Budget	Required	Received	Budget %
Weekly:	\$12,236.37	\$12,196.12	99.7%
Month-to-Date:	\$12,236.37	\$12,196.12	99.7%
Year-to-Date:	\$171,309.18	\$154,670.28	90.3%
Disbursed YTD:	\$153,383.47	GOF Balance: \$1,907.65	

LBAC's Family Calendar & Events

Sunday, December 11

- 9:00AM Worship Celebration 1
- 10:15AM Mind the Gap (Courtyard)
- 10:45AM Foundations Adult Class
- 10:45AM Foundations Youth Meeting
- 10:45AM Worship Celebration 2
- 12:00PM Deacon Meeting
- 6:00PM Perspectives

Monday, December 12

- 7:00PM Compulsive Eaters Anonymous

Tuesday, December 13

- 6:30PM WCwM Holiday Event
- 7:00PM Governing Board Meeting
- 7:00PM High School Youth Group

Wednesday, December 14

- 6:30PM AWANA

Thursday, December 15

- 5:00PM Lydia House Women's Outreach
- 7:00PM Junior High Youth Group

Friday, December 16

- 6:30AM Men's Bible Study
- 8:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, December 18

- 9:00AM Worship Celebration 1
- 10:15AM Mind the Gap (Courtyard)
- 10:45AM Foundations Adult Class
- 10:45AM Foundations Youth Meeting
- 10:45AM Worship Celebration 2
- 6:30PM Elder Dessert Meeting

MISSIONS

<http://www.lbac.org/missions>

Join us for Perspectives & Serving the World!

GROWTH GROUPS

<http://www.lbac.org/gg>

Mid-week Bible Studies for all Adults

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/children>

Sunday Mornings

Gospel Project @ 9:00AM & 10:45AM

AWANA

<http://www.lbac.org/awana>

Wednesdays through May 6:30PM-8:30PM

YOUTH MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/youth>

JH & HS Foundations ~ Sundays @ 10:45AM

HS Core Groups ~ Tuesdays @ 7:00PM

JH Core Groups ~ Thursdays @ 7:00PM

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/women>

Woman To Woman Mentoring

Contact: sherylynne@lbac@gmail.com

Lydia House Meals Ministry

Contact: robbi@apabrando.com

Women Connecting with Missions

3rd Tuesday of each month @ 7:00PM

Crafty Women

2nd Saturday of each month @ 10:00AM

MEN'S MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/men>

Contact: mensministry@lbac.org

long beach alliance church offices

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www.facebook.com/longbeachalliancechurch
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church staff team

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jesse duckett, youth pastor
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chris lankford, lead pastor
ext. 1001 • chris@lbac.org

tina rand, receptionist & treasurer
ext. 1006 • tina@lbac.org

matt swaney, family ministry pastor
ext. 1003 • matt@lbac.org

scott trickett, associate pastor
ext. 1002 • scott@lbac.org



Women Connecting with Missions

Christmas Dinner



The location of the event is Lakewood Mobile Estates Club House
12550 Carson St, Hawaiian Gardens.

**Parking is limited; we are asking that you meet at 5:45 between Baskin
Robbins and the Union Bank (Ball Rd and Via Largo)
for a shuttle service to the clubhouse.**

Some phone numbers in case you have a problem or question:

Kathie: 562.425.5937; Sharon(resident of park): 562.714.6951;

Chuck (shuttle driver): 562.212.1725

Hope to see you there. Bring a friend. We have lots of room.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

**Men's Ministry is Hosting a FREE
Women's Breakfast Featuring Guest Speaker**

Didi MacPherson

**at LBAC on Saturday, January 7
from 9:00AM until 11:00AM**

**Please pick up your ticket at the table outside the church
on December 11, 18 or January 1**

Childcare will be provided.



Advent Joy

Long Beach Alliance Church • December 11, 2016 • Pastor Chris Lankford

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the Lord!"

**As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me.
You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God!**

~Psalm 40:16-17

1) The Pure Joy of Life in Christ

- A) One of the great privileges of having a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ is the opportunity to share that relationship with other people. At one time, relationship with God was a mystery and hope, but God's great Gospel is revealed in Jesus Christ and this should be cause for tremendous joy (Colossians 1:24-29).
- B) I feel it is almost unfortunate that we read some parts of the Bible as "commission" or "command," because it can distract us from the purity of exuberance and excitement which comes from our enthusiastic responsiveness to God (1 John 5:1-5).

2) Our Source of Abundant Joy

- A) This is why the "advent" (the 'arrival,' or 'coming') of Christ is so mind-blowing in Scripture. With so many prophecies and several millennia leading up to it, you would think every single spiritually sensitive and thoughtful person on the planet would be prepared.
- B) But, the arrival of God in the flesh is a complete surprise for everyone. Jesus the Christ ('Messiah,' or 'Savior') is like the rose unexpectedly blooms in the desert, delivering the guarantee of hope and love for a dry and barren world (Isaiah 35:1-4).
- C) When this happens, it is not time for dull apathy, rather, it is time for explosive and expansive joy (Isaiah 35:5-10)! Jesus came in the most unexpected circumstances, and like Mary, Joseph, Zechariah & Elizabeth, Angels, Shepherds, Simeon, Anna, Wise Men, and John the Baptist (Matthew 1-3, Luke 1-3) – we should celebrate "good news of great joy that will be for all people" (Luke 2:10)!

3) The Joy Of Christ's Mission Displayed In Our Lives

- A) I believe the writers of the New Testament must have faced a lot of questions about what they believed. The beginning of several books of the New Testament are written with this purpose in mind (note Luke, Hebrews, 1 John).
- B) That is why the writers of Scripture go to such great lengths to explain the life of Christ, and the life which flows from a genuine relationship with Christ (John 20:30-31, Luke 1:1-3).
- C) Note how John begins his short letter encouraging love to some of the earliest churches (1 John 1:1). He emphasizes “heard, seen, looked upon (beheld), and touched.” These were all ancient ways of explaining and affirming the truth.
- D) John goes on to explain how Christ came and reveals God to each one of us (1:2-3). He explains what he experienced. It is not compelled by command or commission, it bursts forth from a heart genuinely exploding with joy (1:4).
- E) This is the great message of Christmas! The Light has come into the darkness! You and I can be free from the darkness of past sins, shame, brokenness, failures, and guilt. God sent His Son on a rescue mission for all who will respond (1:5-10).
- F) Christmas is really about God's fantastic mission and invitation of you and me into His great story! He has been hard at work for all of history to bring His good and perfect love into the midst of our lives and include us in His family as His own children (2:28-3:2).

4) What Is Given To You Is For Others

- A) It almost goes without saying, but “getting saved by Jesus Christ” should never become a “no big deal” thing in our lives. What God has given to us should fill us with great joy for all people.
- B) It is an oversimplification, but I am calling each of us to remember what Jesus has done for us (Ephesians 2:12-14, 17-19), and then go and do the same for others (3:14-21).