

## **WHO IS THIS CHILD?**

Wednesday, December 3

Reading: Luke 2:1-20

**Luke 2:11** *Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.*

In 1809, all eyes were on Napoleon Bonaparte as he marched across Europe winning victory after victory. His conquest would shape the world for decades to come. No one noticed the cries of a little baby born in February of 1809. But this baby, born in a long cabin in Hodgenville, Kentucky, would have a huge impact on the world. That baby was named Abraham Lincoln.

In a much greater way, the Child born in a manger to a poor Jewish couple would go almost unnoticed. The big events of the day were happening in Rome as Caesar Augustus declared an Empire-wide census. This decree forced Joseph and Mary to leave their home in Nazareth and travel about 100 miles south to Bethlehem. The Savior of the world was born quietly and placed in a manger.

*What Child is this, who, laid to rest / On Mary's lap, is sleeping  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet / While shepherds watch are keeping  
This, this is Christ the King / Whom shepherds guard and angels sing  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud / The Babe, the Son of Mary*

This song begins with the question, "What Child is this?" Who is this Baby who received the worship of heavenly angels and the wonder of lowly shepherds? The answer comes in the second half of the verse: "This, this is Christ the King." The King of kings was born in a lowly manger. The Almighty God became a helpless infant. The Creator of the universe is crying out from hunger and dirty diapers.

No wonder the angels sing and the shepherds marvel! But how should WE respond? The song tells us: "Haste, haste to bring Him laud." The word 'laud' comes from the old Latin and French words for praise. We are to praise this Baby born in humility. And not when we get around to it, but in haste. We must rush to the manger and worship the One who was born the "Savior...Messiah the Lord."

How will you make this Christmas filled with awe and wonder?