



*Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.*
(LSB 332.1)

Our Lord:

- ❖ God Himself – eternally begotten of the Father, of one substance with Him, by Whom all things were made,
- ❖ who rode triumphantly into Jerusalem to answer the cries of *Hosanna* by dying on the Cross and rising again to defeat death and save sinners,
- ❖ who now is ascended, sits at the right hand of the Father, and fills all things,
- ❖ and who will come again in glory to judge both the living and the dead,

took on human flesh initially as a single-cell embryo! And He was still very early in His first trimester of development when, by the Holy Spirit, His presence was recognized and celebrated by His mother's close relative and the six-month gestational age baby in her womb. This is truly something at which we continually marvel!

By His own gestation, Jesus sanctified prenatal life from its very beginning (c.f. LSB 332.3). As ones redeemed by Christ's blood and made baptized members of His Body, we thus welcome all babies, from the time of their conception, as blessings. We help mothers and fathers who are experiencing both planned and unplanned (by them) pregnancies nurture their children both in the womb and after their births. We invite those who are unchurched into our congregations to hear of God's deep love for them and their babies while they receive our love and material and spiritual support. We pray that through this, God will bring them to the water of Baptism and into His eternal kingdom.

Our Lord's Incarnation truly proclaims the Sanctity of Life from fertilization to forever. The members of your English District Lifeline Team thank God for your Gospel-motivated voices for life and pray His richest blessings on you during Advent and throughout the new Church Year.