

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, December 3, 2023

And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

Luke 1:31-33

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 67 (p. 808 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine upon us,

**that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.**

May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you.

May the nations be glad and sing for joy,

for you rule the peoples justly
and guide the nations of the earth.

**May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you.**

Then the land will yield its harvest,
and God, our God, will bless us.

**God will bless us,
and all the ends of the earth will fear him.**

* *Congregation is requested to stand, if able.*

The pastor will read the plain text; the congregation will read the bold text.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we come before you with guilt and shame as we consider how we have offended you by our sinful actions, our hurtful words, and our disgraceful thoughts.

All: You know us even better than we know ourselves; none of our sins are hidden from your sight. It grieves us that we continually fall short of what your Word commands.

Leader: We do earnestly repent and are sincerely sorry for our sins. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for the sake of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Enable us to receive and rest in the truth that we have been justified by faith and have peace with you through our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Give us a growing desire to joyfully serve you and one another as we follow after our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Acts 10:42-43

[Jesus Christ] is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Luke 1:26-56

Congregational Response

(sung to the tune of *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*)

Song of Mary

My soul doth magnify the Lord;
My spirit doth rejoice in God,
For he, my Savior, did in grace
His servant's humble state regard.

Behold, all generations hence
My blessedness will e'er proclaim.
The Mighty One hath done great things
For me, and holy is his name.

For generations, fearing him,
His mercy will on them abide.
His mighty arm displays his strength;
He scatters those who dwell in pride.

He cast the mighty from their thrones,
And lifted those of low estate.
The hungry he hath filled with good;
The rich he empty sent away.

He helped his servant Israel,
In mem'ry of his mercy sure,
As told our father Abraham,
And to his seed forevermore. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 27. *What was Christ's humiliation?*

A. Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born, and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross; in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.

Q. 28. *What is Christ's exaltation?*

A. Christ's exaltation consists in his rising again from the dead on the third day, in ascending into heaven, in sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and in coming to judge the world at the Last Day.

Q. 29. *How do we take part in the redemption purchased by Christ?*

A. We take part in the redemption purchased by Christ by the effectual application of it to us by his Holy Spirit.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship *

Doxology*

Hymn 731

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

* *Tithes and offerings may be placed in the box at the entrance to the sanctuary or given online through our church's website.*

THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading*

Genesis 41:1-36

Congregational Response

Hymn 162

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, he the Source, the Ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore!

This is he whom heav'n-taught singers sang of old with one accord,
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
Now he shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord, evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heav'n, adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
All dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
Hymn, and chant, and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory, evermore and evermore! Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“In Egypt, but Not of It”
Genesis 41

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 194

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on Sinai’s height,
In ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict’ry o’er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav’nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. Amen.

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Sung to STUTTGART [Hymn 5])

Honor, glory, might, and merit,
Be to God and God alone!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
One in Three and Three in One. Amen.

SERMON NOTES

“In Egypt, but Not of It”
Genesis 41

John 17:16, “They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.”

1. Give God the glory. (vv. 16-17, 25-32)
Daniel 2:27-28, 47
Psalm 115:1
2. Trust in God’s Word. (vv. 25-32)
2 Timothy 3:16-17
3. Apply God’s Word. (vv. 33-40)
Proverbs 6:6-8; 22:3
Daniel 1:17-20; 5:14
James 1:5
4. Maintain your godly identity. (vv. 41-52)
Matthew 5:13-16
5. Go to Jesus Christ, the greater Joseph. (vv. 53-57)
John 3:16-17; 6:51

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

The daily reading schedule follows the One Year Bible Reading Plan.

Monday, December 4

Scripture: Daniel 11:36 - 12:13; 1 John 4:1-21; Psalm 123:1-4; Proverbs 29:2-4

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 23

Pray for: Our federal, state, and local government leaders.

Tuesday, December 5

Scripture: Hosea 1:1 - 3:5; 1 John 5:1-21; Psalm 124:1-8; Proverbs 29:5-8

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 36

Pray for: Our military, police, fire, and medical personnel.

Wednesday, December 6

Scripture: Hosea 4:1 - 5:15; 2 John 1:1-13; Psalm 125:1-5; Proverbs 29:9-11

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 37

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.
The churches in Nicaragua and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, December 7

Scripture: Hosea 6:1 - 9:17; 3 John 1:1-15; Psalm 126:1-6; Proverbs 29:12-14

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 38

Pray for: Our Elders, Deacons, Women's Ministry, & the PCA. Our pregnant mom.

Friday, December 8

Scripture: Hosea 10:1 - 14:9; Jude 1:1-25; Psalm 127:1-5; Proverbs 29:15-17

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 39

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health care needs.

Saturday, December 9

Scripture: Joel 1:1 - 3:21; Revelation 1:1-20; Psalm 128:1-6; Proverbs 29:18

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 40

Pray for: The preaching and for our Sunday School teachers.

Sunday, December 10

Scripture: Amos 1:1 - 3:15; Revelation 2:1-17; Psalm 129:1-8; Proverbs 29:19-20

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 41

Pray for: Our worship this morning.

MISSIONS CORNER

Pray for our missionaries. Their prayer requests are sent out through the Prayer Chain and their newsletters are published in Grace Notes as they become available.

Ray & Michele Call | Presbyterian Church in Belize

Dave & Darlene Eby | Africa Reformation Theol. Seminary Uganda

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

In Genesis 41, we see how God's plan to preserve the messianic line by promoting Joseph to power in Egypt comes to fruition. Joseph is remembered by the cupbearer, is brought out of the pit of prison, and is then exalted to an office of high honor and authority. Through Joseph's prosperity and under his protection, Jacob's family will thrive in Egypt and from that family the Messiah—the Savior of the world—will be born. All of this is accomplished by God's sovereign power. God ordered all the events, both in Joseph's life and around the world, to fulfill his sovereign purposes of saving a people for his glory. John Calvin writes:

Hence we maintain that by his providence, not heaven and earth and inanimate creatures only, but also the counsels and wills of men are so governed as to move exactly in the course which he has destined. What, then, you will say, does nothing happen fortuitously, nothing contingently? I answer, it was a true saying of Basil the Great, that fortune and chance are heathen terms; the meaning of which ought not to occupy pious minds. For if all success is blessing from God, and calamity and adversity are his curse, there is no place left in human affairs for fortune and chance. (*Institutes*, I, xvii, I)

1. Read Genesis 41:16-32. How does Joseph's response to Pharaoh glorify God? How can you apply what you learn from Joseph's humility and God-glorifying response to your own life?
2. Does Joseph sound certain of what God will do as he responds to Pharaoh in Genesis 41:25-32? Why can we have this same certainty in God's Word according to 2 Timothy 3:16-17?
3. How is Joseph's God-given wisdom revealed in the plan he proposes to Pharaoh in Genesis 41:33-40? What does the Bible teach about the importance of planning and saving for the future?
4. How does Joseph's naming of his two sons reveal that his identity was still centered upon the Lord and not upon his power and prestige in Egypt? How can you apply what you learn here to your own life, especially taking into consideration what Jesus said in Matthew 5:13-16?
5. In what ways was Joseph a type and shadow of Jesus Christ?