

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, December 19, 2021

And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:10-11

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 99 (p. 820)

The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble;

he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.

Great is the LORD in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations.

Let them praise your great and awesome name—he is holy.

The King is mighty, he loves justice—

you have established equity;

in Jacob you have done what is just and right.

Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy.

Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel was among those who called on his name;

they called on the LORD and he answered them.

He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud;

they kept his statutes and the decrees he gave them.

O LORD our God, you answered them; you were to Israel a forgiving God, though you punished their misdeeds.

**Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his holy mountain,
for the LORD our God is holy.**

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

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Almighty God, we are reminded this morning of your divine purpose for the incarnation: that in the fullness of time, you sent forth your Son, born of woman, born under the law, to save us from our sins.

All: We confess that though you have blessed us with eternal riches in Christ, we have preferred the ways of this world. We have rebelled against your wisdom and sought after foolishness. We have rejected your fatherly commands and have done what is right in our own eyes.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, and assure us of your forgiveness. Help us to lay aside the sin which clings so closely, and give us the strength we need to run with endurance the race that is set before us.

All: We ask all this through the merit and mediation of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Matthew 1:20-21

But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

1 Samuel 16:6-13; 2 Samuel 7:8-17

Congregational Response

Hymn 203

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King." Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 10. *How did God create man?*

A. God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.

Q. 11. *What are God's works of providence?*

A. God's works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.

Q. 12. *What special act of providence did God exercise towards man in the estate in which he was created?*

A. When God created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of perfect obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, on the pain of death.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Doxology*

Hymn 732

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.

THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading*

Luke 1:26-38

Congregational Response

Hymn 201

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by:
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in;
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel. Amen.

Reception of New Members

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

Advent in Isaiah
“The Savior Will Be Given the Spirit Without Limit”
Isaiah 11:1-5

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 214

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
Which inspire your heav’nly song?

*Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Amen.*

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

Hymn 218

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
*Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Shepherds in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light:
*Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen his natal star:
*Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear:
*Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising
To th'eternal Three in One:
*Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King. Amen.*

SERMON NOTES

Advent in Isaiah
“The Savior Will Be Given the Spirit Without Limit”
Isaiah 11:1-5

1. The Savior’s Identity: He will be a son of David. (v. 1)
2 Samuel 7:12-13
Luke 1:32-33
2. The Savior’s Power: He will be given the Holy Spirit without limit. (v. 2)
John 3:34
2 Timothy 1:7
3. The Savior’s Work: His delight will be in the fear of the Lord. (vv. 3-5)
John 6:38-40

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, December 20

Scripture: Haggai 1:1 - 2:23; Revelation 11:1-19; Psalm 139:1-24; Proverbs 30:15-16

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 20

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

Tuesday, December 21

Scripture: Zechariah 1:1-21; Revelation 12:1-17; Psalm 140:1-13; Proverbs 30:17

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 66

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

Wednesday, December 22

Scripture: Zechariah 2:1 - 3:10; Revelation 13:1-18; Psalm 141:1-10; Prov. 30:18-20

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 67

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

Thursday, December 23

Scripture: Zechariah 4:1 - 5:11; Revelation 14:1-20; Psalm 142:1-7; Proverbs 30:21-23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 68

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

Friday, December 24

Scripture: Zechariah 6:1 - 7:14; Revelation 15:1-8; Psalm 143:1-12; Proverbs 30:24-28

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 69

Pray for: April Franklin and our members who have ongoing health care needs.
Our pregnant mom.

Saturday, December 25

Scripture: Zechariah 8:1-23; Revelation 16:1-21; Psalm 144:1-15; Proverbs 30:29-31

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 70

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

Sunday, December 26

Scripture: Zechariah 9:1-17; Revelation 17:1-18; Psalm 145:1-21; Proverbs 30:32

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 71

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

rcall@mtwsa.org; mcall@mtwsa.org

Karl & Sun Dahlfred | OMF International in Thailand

dahlfred@gmail.com

Dave & Darlene Eby | Africa Reformation Theol. Seminary Uganda

ebyuganda@gmail.com

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

In our Advent series, we have been studying Isaiah's prophecies about the Messiah. Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would be God (Isaiah 7:10-14), that he would bring light to our dark world (Isaiah 9:1-5), and that he will be the sovereign King (Isaiah 9:6-7).

In Isaiah 11:1-5, more details are revealed that focus on the Messiah's relationship with the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament, prophets, priests, and kings were anointed with the Holy Spirit. This was God's way of designating people to these special offices and also empowering them to fulfill the requirements of these offices. Isaiah reveals that the Holy Spirit will also rest on the Messiah (the "Anointed One") with a fullness that has never been experienced by any person on earth. The Messiah will have the Holy Spirit "without limit" (John 3:34). Centuries later we see in Jesus' life how the Holy Spirit empowered and equipped him as the incarnate Son of God to accomplish all that was required for our salvation. What does this mean for us today? Mark Jones, in his book, *Knowing Christ*, writes:

With this in mind, we should understand that the manner in which the Spirit relates to us as Christians has everything to do with the manner in which he related to Christ while he lived on earth. Jesus bestows the Spirit upon his people (Acts 2:33). In his earthly ministry Christ was subject to the will of the Father and thus to the Holy Spirit. Then, in his state of exaltation he became Lord of the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:17). The Spirit even takes on the name of Christ (Romans 8:9; 1 Peter 1:11). Therefore, Christ sends his Spirit to minister to us. Just as the ministry of Christ was performed by the Spirit, so now the ongoing work of Christ is performed in believers by the Holy Spirit as the vicar [representative; agent] of Christ.

1. For review, read last Sunday's sermon text from Isaiah 9:6-7. What do each of the titles ascribed to the Messiah reveal about who he will be and what he will do? How did Jesus fulfill these things during his ministry on earth, and how does he continue to do them as our heavenly Mediator?
2. Read Isaiah 11:1. Why does Isaiah use the image of a "stump" to describe Jesse's family? According to Luke 1:26-38, how did Jesus' incarnation fulfill this prophecy?
3. According to Isaiah 11:2, what role will the Holy Spirit have in the life of the Messiah? What gifts and abilities will the Holy Spirit give to the Messiah? How were these things present in Jesus' life and ministry?
4. Read Isaiah 11:3-5. What does Isaiah mean when he says that the Messiah's "delight shall be in the fear of the LORD"? How was this evident in Jesus' life and ministry, especially considering what Jesus said in John 8:28-29?
5. As you consider what you learned during our "Advent in Isaiah" series, what would you say has been most impactful in your relationship with God and in your relationships with others?