

MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION
The Lord's Day – Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2022
10:30 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements: Pastor Jeff Birch

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Prelude: Olivia Bellefeuille, piano

Silent Night/Coventry Carol

Call to Worship: Matthew 11:28-30

The Invocation

Hymn of Praise 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;

(Chorus)

Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant Light: *(Chorus)*

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen his natal star: *(Chorus)*

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear; *(Chorus)*

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising
To th'eternal Three in One: *(Chorus)*

Confession of Sin

Need of Confession: Psalm 14:1-3

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good. ² The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. ³ They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.

Personal Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin (Unison)

Holy God, You created us in Your likeness, but through original sin, the image of God was utterly defaced in man, and we became by nature hostile to God, slaves to Satan, and servants to sin. And thus everlasting death has had, and shall have, power and dominion over all who have not been, are not, or shall not be born from above. This rebirth is wrought by the power of the Holy Ghost creating in the hearts of God's chosen ones an assured faith in the promise of God revealed to us in His Word; by this faith we grasp Christ Jesus with the graces and blessings promised in Him. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: Psalm 103:10-12

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; ¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Song of Praise 211

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior
Was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray;

(Chorus)

O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father,
A blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name. *(Chorus)*

"Fear not, then" said the angel,
"Let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Saviour
Of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in Him
From Satan's pow'r and might." *(Chorus)*

The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding,
In tempest, storm, and wind:
And went to Bethlehem straightway,
The Son of God to find. (*Chorus*)

The Lord's Prayer (unison) / Pastoral 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.

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Men's Quartet

He Touched Me

Doxology

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.

***Sermon Series: The Indescribable Gift
The Ultimate Sacrifice
Hebrews 9:11-14; 10:11-18 (ESV)***

¹¹ *But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹² he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.*

¹¹ *And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. ¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.*

¹⁵ *And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,*

¹⁶ *“This is the covenant that I will make with them
after those days, declares the Lord:*

*I will put my laws on their hearts,
and write them on their minds,”*

¹⁷ then he adds,

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

¹⁸ *Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.*

As we continue to open the package to see the indescribable riches of Christ we will look this morning at how Jesus, through the ultimate sacrifice, accomplished eternal redemption for us. We will explore this under three headings.

- I. Why We Need It
- II. How He Did It
- III. What It Accomplished

Reflections

“Perhaps our greatest problem is not the reality of our sin, but our unbiblical expectations of what Christian growth should look like. What growing in grace is more about humility, dependence, and exalting Christ than it is about defeating sin? How would that impact our struggle with sin and our joy in Christ as we continue to live as weak sinners in a fallen world?” (Barbara R. Duguid)

“His great business is to behold the glory of God in Christ; and by beholding, he is changed.” (John Newton)

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.

(Chorus)

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 heavenly song? *(Chorus)*

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

The Benediction

Postlude

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