

MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION
The Lord's Day – Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 19, 2021
10:30 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements: Pastor Jeff Birch

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Doug & Jeanne Hesse

Prelude: Miss Mary Strickland, piano

The First Noel
Arranged by Margaret Goldston

Call to Worship: Luke 2:13-14

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)*

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 65:17-25

***Song of Praise 211**

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

God rest ye 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 / 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.

Offertory: Miss Jewell Morrison

Breath of Heaven

By Craig Courtney

***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.

(During this song, children ages 4-6 may go to Children's Worship)

Sermon Series: Hope According to Isaiah

Sermon Text: Isaiah 62:1-12 (ESV)

Sermon Title: The Promise of Glory

*For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch.
² The nations shall see your righteousness,
and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
⁴ You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate,
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the LORD delights in you,
and your land shall be married.
⁵ For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your sons marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.
⁶ On your walls, O Jerusalem,
I have set watchmen;
all the day and all the night
they shall never be silent.
You who put the LORD in remembrance,
take no rest,
⁷ and give him no rest
until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it a praise in the earth.
⁸ The LORD has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:
"I will not again give your grain
to be food for your enemies,*

*and foreigners shall not drink your wine
for which you have labored;
9 but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the LORD,
and those who gather it shall drink it
in the courts of my sanctuary.”*
*10 Go through, go through the gates;
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway;
clear it of stones;
lift up a signal over the peoples.*
*11 Behold, the LORD has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:
Say to the daughter of Zion,
“Behold, your salvation comes;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.”*
*12 And they shall be called The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the LORD;
and you shall be called Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.*

I Peter 1:8-9 says, “Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.” I think it was Charles Spurgeon who once said, “Sometimes the happiness gets to be so much that I have to ask the Lord to turn it off.” Now, I don’t know exactly where I heard this, but I do remember when I first heard it thinking, the prince of preachers just has a different religion than I do.

Why is that? Do any of you ever feel that way? Jack Miller, the founder of World Harvest Mission (now called Serge) would always quote Galatians saying, “*What has happened to all your joy?*” We need a recovery of the promise of glory, the glory of our salvation.

This morning, we will be looking at Isaiah 62 and the promise of glory. Isaiah is speaking about the glory of salvation. Unfortunately, I think too many of us are captured by other things, probably good things, but not ultimate things and it impacts the fullness we experience of salvation.

This morning, we will explore this passage by simply looking at two themes from the text.

- I. The Purpose of Glory
- II. The Promise of Glory

Reflection

“God created us for union with Himself: This is the original purpose of our lives. And God is defined as love (1 John 4:16). Living in awareness of our belovedness is the axis around which the Christian life revolves. Being the beloved is our identity, the core of our existence. It is not merely a lofty thought, an inspiring idea, or one name among many. It is the name by which God knows us and the way He relates to us.” (Brennan Manning, Abba’s Child: The Cry of the Heart for Intimate Belonging, p.50)

***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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