

MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION
The Lord's Day – Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2022
10:30 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements: Pastor Jeff Birch

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Prelude: Miss Mary Strickland

Angel Medley/Joseph's Lullaby
Arranged by Martha Mier and Chris Rice

Call to Worship: Psalm 149:1-4

The Invocation

Hymn of Praise 194 (vss. 1, 3-5)

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.

(Chorus)

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. *(chorus)*

O come, thou Day-spring from on high
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *(chorus)*

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. *(chorus)*

Confession of Sin

Need of Confession: Micah 6:8

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Personal Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin (Unison)

Father, you tell us in your Word that whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. We confess that we have frequently relaxed our faith. We have allowed ourselves to become cynical, and our cynicism has boiled over with slander, criticism, prayerlessness, and pessimism. How easily we've allowed ourselves to crumble under the stresses of our lives. Forgive us for our smallness of faith. In your mercy, hear us, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: Micah 7:18-19

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. ¹⁹ He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Song of Praise

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That he should give his only Son
To make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss;
The Father turns his face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon his shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

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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: Choir, Cheryl Tabler, solo

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel

By Keith & Kristyn Getty

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

Captain of Our Salvation

Hebrews 2:5-18 (ESV)

Pastor Jeff Birch

⁵ For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. ⁶ It has been testified somewhere,

“What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? ⁷ You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, ⁸ putting everything in subjection under his feet.”

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. ⁹ But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. ¹⁰ For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹ For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, ¹² saying,

“I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.” ¹³ And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Behold, I and the children God has given me.”

¹⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. ¹⁶ For

surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

How is Jesus our champion? The champion of our salvation? We will look at this under three headings

I. Fulfilling Our Destiny

II. Giving us Family Solidarity

III. Destroying Our Enemy

Reflection

“In a very deep sense, the entire Christian life in this world is lived in Advent, between the first and second comings of the Lord, in the midst of the tension between things the way they are and things the way they ought to be. To be a Christian is to live every day of our lives in solidarity with those who sit in darkness in the shadow of death, but to live in the unshakable hope of those who expect the dawn.” (Fleming Rutledge, Advent)

Hymn 195

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.

The Benediction

Postlude

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