

MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION
The Lord's Day – Second Sunday of Advent
December 5, 2021
10:30 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements: Pastor Jeff Birch

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Lou & Karen Tepper

Prelude: Mrs. Lynne Fowlkes, flute

Angels We Have Heard on High
Arranged by Bruce Olstad

Call to Worship: Hebrews 12:22-24

The Invocation

***Hymn of Praise 196**

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.

The Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Song of Praise**

Behold Our God

Who has held the oceans in his hands?
Who has numbered ev'ry grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at his voice.
All creation rises to rejoice.

Behold our God, seated on his throne.
Come, let us adore him.
Behold our King, nothing can compare,
Come let us adore him!

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of his words?
Who can teach the one who knows all things?
Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds?

Behold our God, seated on his throne.
Come, let us adore him.
Behold our King, nothing can compare,
Come let us adore him!

Who has felt the nails upon his hand,
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave,
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign!

Behold our God, seated on his throne.
Come, let us adore him.
Behold our King, nothing can compare,
Come let us adore him!

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: Chancel Choir

Carols of Gathering
(featuring "Wonderbarer Konig" and "Adeste Fideles")
Arranged by Joseph Martin

***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 56:1-8 (ESV)
Sermon Title: The Wonder of Salvation

Thus says the LORD:

*"Keep justice, and do righteousness,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my righteousness be revealed.*

*² Blessed is the man who does this,
and the son of man who holds it fast,
who keeps the Sabbath, not profaning it,
and keeps his hand from doing any evil."*

*³ Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say,
"The LORD will surely separate me from his people";
and let not the eunuch say,
"Behold, I am a dry tree."*

*⁴ For thus says the LORD:
"To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,
who choose the things that please me
and hold fast my covenant,*

*⁵ I will give in my house and within my walls
a monument and a name
better than sons and daughters;
I will give them an everlasting name
that shall not be cut off.*

⁶ *“And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,
and holds fast my covenant—
⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.”*

⁸ *The Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares,
“I will gather yet others to him
besides those already gathered.”*

In Colossians 2 the apostle Paul writes, *“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving”* (Colossians 2:6-7). No, I am not preaching from Colossians this morning. We are still looking at Isaiah. But I want you to notice something very important in this passage. Paul writes *“As you received Christ Jesus the Lord.”* When did you receive Christ Jesus the Lord? At your conversion. It is how you became a Christian. Then he says, *“So walk in him.”*

Isn't that interesting? So walk in him refers to our life in Christ. Apparently, just as we became a Christian through the gospel we continue to walk or live the Christian life through the gospel. Becoming a Christian and growing as a Christian both come through the gospel.

Now, what does that have to do with Isaiah you might be asking? Well, Isaiah 56 is all about the implications of grace. Isaiah is prophesying about how the gospel changes us. He is speaking about issues like community, justice, the sabbath, worship and mission. What ties these things together? What empowers us to live the Christian life? The gospel and the wonder of salvation.

We only grow through the power of the gospel. So, in this week's sermon we will explore this text from three perspectives. May our hearts continued to be gripped by the beauty of the gospel.

- I. The Wonder of Salvation
- II. The Wonder of Sabbath
- III. The Wonder of Grace

***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!”

Chorus

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

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see;
Hail th’incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel. (*Chorus*)

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 men no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth. (*Chorus*)

***The Benediction**

Postlude

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