

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

12/9/18

Text: Luke 1:26-38 & 2:8-20

Title: The Proclamation of Christmas: He's Here!

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

In the sermon today we looked at the first chapters of the Gospel of Luke and the declaration to both Mary and the shepherds in the fields, that "He's Here!" "Jesus has come." As Tim said, there are two ways to understand that phrase. It can either be an exclamation that finally, the promised Messiah has come, which was certainly true. But the second way is to recognize what the angel said to the shepherds, "to you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, Christ The LORD. God has not only sent a messiah to save His people from subjugation. He, God Himself, has come in the flesh, and He has come Here! In our pride and unbelief we can make the Christian message about Religion and Morality, that's it's all about doing what's right and God will bless us. But the message of Christmas is not one of honoring the highest, it's about the humility of God to make himself nothing and announce it to the lowest of people, so that when we are humbled by the gospel, then, we will see the beauty of Christ and give all our loyalty to him.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. Jesus smashes our expectations and his birth is truly a miracle. Not that there was a "baby wrapped in swaddling cloths", but that this baby is God in a feeding trough.*
 - How has God smashed your expectations of who you thought He would be?***
 - How has God smashed your expectations of what you thought your life should be?***
 - Where do you still need God to smash your expectations and give you humility?***
- 2. Tim said our brokenness and sin come down to a matter of loyalty. Are we loyal to Jesus in all corners of our lives, or, like an undercover spy, when we're thrown in the pool and our cover is blown, will our competing loyalties be revealed or even threatened?*
 - What are the greatest threats to your loyalty to Jesus? (I.e. What thing, when it's threatened, is shown to be of greatest value to you?)***
 - When has Jesus brought you low to reveal competing loyalties in your heart?***
 - Where do you need Him to do it again?***

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WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

A.C.T.S.

(Spend time in prayer and worship as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart from this sermon.)

1. ADORATION *(The Father)*

Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions

2. CONFESSION *(Me)*

Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited

3. THANKSGIVING *(Jesus)*

Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)

4. SUPPLICATION *(Holy Spirit)*

Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways

5. Prepare for Gospel Community *(My Neighbor)*

Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.

Prayer Items

- 1. Read Isaiah 57:15 and worship the LORD for His graciousness to the humble. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for being not only holy and above all creatures, but also being especially present with the humble and contrite.*
- 2. How have you lived insisting on being in control? Confess your pride and folly to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to help you humbly trust Him to be what He says He is – Savior, Christ, the LORD.*
- 3. Give thanks to Jesus for being willing to go to the lowest points in order to rescue us – buried under a mountain of guilt and ruin. Thank Him for humbling Himself to die for our sins and conquer death as only He could.*
- 4. Who do you know that struggles with humbling themselves? Pray for them, asking the Lord to help them see the dangers (and deception) of pride and the glory of how He humbled Himself to save people like us.*
- 5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you the fruit of joy at all God has done to save sinners like us. Pray that, like the shepherds, you would hear what God has promised, pursue what He has done, and eagerly tell others as His Grace changes your life.*