

December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

*This is the day that the LORD has made,  
let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24*

Please greet those around you before the announcements begin.

### **Moments of Meditation**

While the music is being played, quietly prepare your heart for worship.

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us  
and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”

1 John 4:10

**Prelude**

*Christmas Medley*

arr. Kartsonakis

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Time of Greeting (Sharing God’s Welcome)**

**Interlude**

*Sing We Now of Christmas*

arr. Doran

\* \* \*

**\*Call to Worship**

Psalm 113:1-3

**\*Hymn of Praise**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

No. 196

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, Dayspring 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.

### **\*Prayer of Invocation**

#### **Scripture Reading**

Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Pew Bible Page 1345

#### **Prayer of Confession**

Our Father in heaven, help us to delight in You and to enjoy You forever. All the treasures and delights of this world have left us empty and unfulfilled. Forgive us, we ask, for making so much of all that this world has to offer us. In You there is everlasting joy and peace. Build us up by Your grace. Ignite in us a deeper desire to know You more. Drive us to Your Word; disciple us according to it; and continue to renew our sinful hearts. Show us Your Son, Jesus, and make us more like Him. Grant to us a greater measure of Your grace, this week especially, that we might enjoy You, and in turn we might enjoy all the many blessings that You so generously bestow to us. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

#### **Assurance of Pardoning Grace**

Psalm 113:4-9

<sup>4</sup> The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens! <sup>5</sup> Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high, <sup>6</sup> who looks far down on the heavens and the earth? <sup>7</sup> He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap, <sup>8</sup> to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people. <sup>9</sup> He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the Lord!

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.

**Westminster Shorter Catechism 7 & 8**

Q. 7 What are the decrees of God?

**A. The decrees of God are, his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.**

Q. 8 How doth God execute his decrees?

**A. God executeth his decrees in the works of creation and providence.**

**Prayer of Intercession**

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Thro' many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

And when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess within the veil a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we've first begun.

**Sermon**

Songs of Advent, part 5

Luke 2:25-38  
Pew Bible Page 1591

**Ministry of Music**

*Now That I've Held Him in My Arms*

Michael Card

An old man in the temple, waiting in the court;  
Waiting for the answer to a promise;  
And all at once he sees them in the morning sunshine:  
a couple coming carrying a Baby.  
Now that I've held Him in my arms my life can come to an end;  
Let Your servant now depart in peace, 'cause I've seen Your salvation.  
He's the light of the Gentiles, and the glory of His people Israel!

Mary and the Baby come, and in her hand five shekels;  
the price to redeem her Baby Boy.  
The Baby softly cooing, nestled in her arms.  
Simeon takes the Boy and starts to sing.  
Now that I've held Him in my arms my life can come to an end;  
Let Your servant now depart in peace, 'cause I've seen Your salvation.  
He's the light of the Gentiles, and the glory of His people Israel!

Now's the time to take Him in your arms,  
your life will never come to an end.  
He's the only way that you'll find peace; He'll give you salvation.  
He's the light of the Gentiles and the glory of His people Israel!

## Sermon Outline

1. The Holy Spirit
2. The Timing of God
3. The Remnant

## Questions for Further Reflection:

1. Very often we associate being a Christian with being ‘a good person’. Simeon is described as “righteous and devout” in v. 25. How does this differ from what people associate with being “good” today?
2. Surely it would not have been easy to raise the Son of God. What did Mary and Joseph learn about Jesus from vv. 29-32 and vv. 34-35?
3. What did Anna do? Read v. 37. Was this a worthwhile use of her time? What does it teach you about the importance of prayer? What does it teach us about growing older and the work of the elderly in the church?
4. What does it mean to wait on the Lord? Is this something that you do well? Why or why not? What are some promises that God has made to you in the Bible that might help you be more patient?

## \*Hymn of Response

*Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!*

No. 498

Jesus! what a Friend for sinners! Jesus! Lover of my soul;  
Friends may fail me, foes assail me, He, my Savior, makes me whole.

REFRAIN: Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a Friend!  
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, He is with me to the end.

Jesus! what a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in Him;  
tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, He, my strength, my vict'ry wins. REFRAIN

Jesus! what a help in sorrow! While the billows o'er me roll,  
even when my heart is breaking, He, my comfort, helps my soul. REFRAIN

Jesus! what a guide and keeper! While the tempest still is high,  
storms about me, night o'er-takes me, He, my pilot, hears my cry. REFRAIN

Jesus! I do now receive Him, more than all in Him I find;  
He hath granted me forgiveness, I am His, and He is mine. REFRAIN

**\*Benediction**

**\*Gloria Patri**

No. 735

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

**\*Postlude**

*Joy to the World*

arr. Bock

**\* Congregation:** Please stand as able.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Solo**

Bruce Stoltzfus

**Piano**

Sandy DeGroot

**Piano and Organ**

Sandy Schoon

**Intercessory Prayer**

Bruce Stoltzfus, Elder

## Weekly Calendar

| <u>DATE</u>      | <u>TIME</u> | <u>EVENT</u>                        |
|------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>SUN 12/29</b> | 10:30 AM    | Worship Service                     |
| <b>SAT 1/04</b>  | 8:00 AM     | Men's Bible Study                   |
| <b>SUN 1/05</b>  | 9:00 AM     | Opening Exercises                   |
|                  | 9:15 AM     | Sunday School Classes               |
|                  | 10:30 AM    | Worship Service & The Lord's Supper |
|                  | 5:00 PM     | Youth Bible Study                   |



## January Birthdays

|                  |                   |                  |                |                  |                  |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Katherine Rehbein | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Jackson Greene | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Becky Schoon     |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Chris Martel      | 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Jeff Wiseman   | 16 <sup>th</sup> | Jenni Gretzinger |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Cordie Armstrong  | 29 <sup>th</sup> | Robbin Kern    | 30 <sup>th</sup> | Jessica Marshall |



## Serving the Lord

|                   | 12/29                  | 1/05                 | 1/12                       |
|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| AM Nursery        | B. Schoon,<br>Emily S. | V. Lash,<br>Aaron L. | Y. Lindborg,<br>Grayden L. |
| Greeters          | Trujillo               | Hale/Grass           | Lanenga                    |
| Treats            | Lindborg               | Lash                 | Schoon                     |
| Serve/Cleanup     | Lindborg               | Lash                 | Schoon                     |
| Audio             | J. Martin              | B. Schoon            | J. Martin                  |
| Elder of the Week | Stoltzfus              | Lindborg             | Schoon                     |

## Announcements

☞ **Sunday School Classes:** Classes will resume on January 5. The Adult Class will be studying “Covenant Theology” using the book, “The Christ of the Covenants” by O. Palmer Robertson. This will be a 12 week course.

☞ **Poinsettias:** Please pick up your poinsettia after the morning worship service today. Any poinsettias that are left are free on a first-come, first-served basis.

☞ **The Annual Corporation Meeting:** This annual meeting will be held Wednesday, January 29, at 6:30 pm. The 2020 budget will be presented and voted on. You will receive a budget booklet within the next few weeks. All members should plan to attend this important meeting.