

Chattanooga Valley Presbyterian Church

Order of Worship | Advent II

December 6, 2020

Liturgist: David Marr | Sermon: Rev. Dennis Louis | Lead Musician: Scott Finch

Advent II Readings: Malachi 2:13-16

And this second thing you do. You cover the Lord's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. But you say, "Why does he not?" Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. "For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the Lord, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless."

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Call To Worship: Psalm 31:1-5

L: In you, O Lord, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me!

ALL: Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily; be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me!

L: For you are my rock and my fortress; and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me; you take me out of the net they have hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

ALL: Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

L: This is the Word of the LORD!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Opening Hymn: As With Gladness Men of Old | 226

1. As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious God, may we evermore be led to thee.
2. As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly cradle bed,
there to bend the knee before him whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek Thy mercy seat.
3. As they offered gifts most rare at that cradle rude and bare;
so may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.
4. Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
and, when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.
5. In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing alleluias to our King.

Pastoral Prayer Followed by The Lord's 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, for ever. Amen.

Psalter Reading: Psalm 104:24-35

L: O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

ALL: Here is the sea, great and wide, which teems with creatures innumerable, living things both small and great.

L: There go the ships, and Leviathan, which you formed to play in it. These all look to you, to give them their food in due season.

ALL: When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

L: When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.

ALL: May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works,

L: Who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke! I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

ALL: May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord.

L: Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more!

ALL: Bless the Lord, O my soul! Praise the Lord!

L: This is the Word of the LORD!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Song of Preparation: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence | 193

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

2. King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood;
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food.

3. Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
that the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

4. At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Sermon: "The Savior That Brings Wisdom to the World"

Word: Isaiah 11:1-16

1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. **2** And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. **3** And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, **4** but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. **5** Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins...

Questions for Reflection

1. What does the word wisdom mean? How is it different from knowledge?
2. Isaiah 11:2 says that the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon the stump of Jesse. Is there a difference between the Spirit resting on someone vs. the spirit indwelling someone.
3. What do you think it means to have:
 - A Spirit of wisdom and understanding
 - A Spirit of Counsel and might
 - A Spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord?
4. In what way is the wisdom of God different from the wisdom of man.
5. What are some clear biblical examples of God's wisdom on display?
6. Do you regularly pray for a Spirit of wisdom, or do you rely on your own accumulated knowledge?
7. How would you illustrate the wisdom of God to a non-Christian?

Song of Approach: What Wondrous Love is This | 261 (Stanzas 1, 2)

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!
2. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme, I will sing!

Communion

Sending Hymn: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus | 96

1. 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 every nation, joy of every longing heart.
2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high, appear; come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, for thy birth we long to hear! O'er the hills the angels singing new, glad tidings of a birth; "Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."
3. 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.
4. 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.

Benediction: Jude 1:20-21

But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life...
so that all the peoples will say...

ALL: Amen. Our LORD is faithful. Praise the LORD!

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