

Sunday, December 15, 2013

Welcome – Greg Snow

Call to Worship – *Christ Is Born!*

Good Christian friends, rejoice! Today your Lord comes in love and power, in grace and truth, offering hope and peace.

Christ is born! Alleluia!

This promised one, mighty, though small, is our hope, our strength, and our life.

Christ is born to save! Alleluia! In hope, let us worship God.

Song of Worship – *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

We Give You Praise

When all things in silence lay and the night was in the midst of her course, your Word leaped down from your royal throne, O God. So we rejoice and give you praise, that your Word may live in us and that we may glorify you forever.

Song of Praise – *Angels We Have Heard On High*

Mary's Song of Praise – *Luke 1:46-55 (Source: Warren Wiersbe)*

Listen to Mary's song of praise as she recognizes and praises God as Savior, found in Luke 1:46-55:

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

Father in Heaven, You are the true and living God, and I worship You! I adore You! Deliver me from the worship of substitutes. May I worship the Creator, not the creation or the creature. May I worship the Redeemer, not the experience of redemption or the blessings it brings to my life. Tear from my heart every idol! May I worship and serve You and You alone. Through Jesus Christ, Your Beloved Son, Amen.

Confession of Sin & Prayer

When Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, he became like us in all things but sin. Over the next few moments, let us turn our hearts and mind towards repentance as we silently pray to God asking Him to forgive us of our sins. May we who have been reborn in him be free from our sinful ways. Let us now silently confess our sin to God.

Songs of Worship – *I Worship You, Almighty God/O Come, Let Us Adore Him*

Offering “A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes...and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, is not a bad picture of Advent.” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Zechariah’s Prophecy – *Luke 1:68-79*

These are the words of Zechariah’s Prophecy, found in Luke 1:68-79:

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us;

To show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Christ was born to die on the cross. The meek and humble babe, the Lamb of God, was the final sacrifice for all time. Christ overcame all of the Satanic power behind the most vicious war ever unleashed on Earth against the throne of God. Even the very last enemy of man – death, was defeated as the Savior rose from the grave, returned to sit at the right hand of God in glory, and is King for eternity. The Lord continues to offer his good gift to the world – his Son, a gift that anyone can receive if he wants to understand what the present is. That present is salvation, offered through Christ alone, and a genuine relationship with the living God who can and will do for us far above what we can imagine being possible.

Songs of Worship – *What Child is This/Jesus, The Son of God*

Message – *“On the Way to Jerusalem”*

Scripture Reference: Matthew 20:17-28

Time of Prayer

Song of Worship – *Hide Away in the Love of Jesus*

Benediction