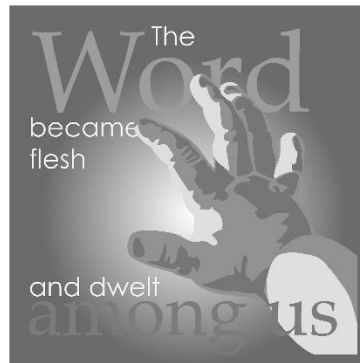


THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD— CHRISTMAS DAY

We Beheld His Glory

Christmas, as John Writes It

December 20, 2020



AS WE GATHER

Glory is the theme of both John's account and Luke's familiar details of the Savior's birth. They are not mutually exclusive but speak of the same event. The surprise is that glory is not where we would have expected it or what we would have expected it to be. Hidden in the manger is the Word made flesh, the same creating Word that spoke all things into being. Hidden in the flesh of a baby is the glory of the God who becomes His people's Savior. Hidden in the faith that trusts this Word are eyes to see and ears to hear the glory as of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. In the Word made flesh, God has displayed His glory, and that glory appeared in order to give us the right to become the children of God. The world hears a sentimental story, a typical account of an underdog hero who has come to fight against all sorts of wrongs. Today we hear from John the same story but with the revelation that the Child is the Word, that this is no ordinary birth but the Word made flesh, and that this story is not about sentiment but salvation. In the midst of this all is the reality that the world lies in the darkness of sin and death—but not all of it. To those who believe on His name, the light shines and the darkness has not and cannot overcome it. Here is where we are. We see the Word by faith, hear His promise of salvation by faith, live in His light by faith, and rejoice that we are the sons and daughters of God by faith.

✘ PREPARATION ✘

PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:

Lord, we thank you for the birth of your Son. Help us to prepare again for his coming: to prepare inwardly, in our hearts, and outwardly, in our world. It may seem naïve, in a world of grief, to choose to live in joy; It may seem foolish, in a world where solemnity is power, to sing and dance to a different tune; It may seem cruel, in a world of suffering and injustice, to speak of light and celebration; But you have come, Jesus, to bring joy into our grief, light into our darkness, singing into our mourning; and it is an act of healing and proclamation to believe and embrace the joy you offer. Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Hallelujah! Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION IS CELEBRATED:

Today we have the privilege of receiving Christ's true body and blood in, with and under the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Through this sacrament the Holy Spirit seals to us the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation for the strengthening of our faith. Scriptures also teach that as we commune together, we are publicly testifying to a complete unity of faith based on a confession of all of God's Word. If you confess the same belief, we invite you to our fellowship of the Lord's Supper

WELCOME:

WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE...May the peace of the Christ-child fill your heart. We are so glad that you are here on this joyous Christmas Day! We pray that today's service will be a blessing to you. but celebrate his presence and his continued rebirth in our hearts. We not only celebrate the meaning of his life for our world, but rejoice at his continued presence and involvement in it. May you sense God's nearness and be encouraged as you Worship and praise with us this afternoon! Our goal today is to make a joyful noise unto the Lord and celebrate His birth. Anytime our door is open, you are welcome to join in praising our savior. Welcome!

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 43:4; 124:8*

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,
People: to God my exceeding joy.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,
People: who made heaven and earth.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Recalling our sin and God's mercy, let us examine our lives and consciences.

Silence for self-examination

People: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

☩ WORD ☩

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

People: The Light no darkness can overcome.

Pastor: Let your light scatter the darkness

People: And illumine your church.

HYMN "Jesus The Light of the World" TFBF 59 Sts. 1-2

1 Hark! the herald angels sing, Jesus, the Light of the world; "Glory to the new-born King," Jesus, the Light of the world.

Refrain:

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright. Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the world.

2 Joyful, all you nations, rise, Jesus, the Light of the world; join the triumph of the skies; Jesus, the Light of the world. [Refrain]

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

(The Lord comforts His people.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

EPISTLE

Hebrews 1:1-6 (7-12)

(Now He has spoken through His Son.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1-14 (15-18)

(The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.)

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Skit- "Go And Tell"

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

SERMON

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

(We Bring Our Tithes & Offering To The Lord)

CONFESSION OF FAITH The Nicene Creed

I believe in One God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son, of God; begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God; Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary and was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scripture; And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spake by the prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For the faith to greet the news of the Word made flesh with joy and peace, for the obedience of faith to walk in the light of His ways, for the strength to be steadfast in this faith, and for speedy feet to proclaim this message to the world, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For voices to proclaim faithfully the Word of God, for listening ears that we grow in knowledge and faith by the preaching of the Word, for those who deliver to us the Means of Grace in which we behold God's glory and receive it with joy and thanksgiving, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For the Church, here and throughout the world, for every place where the Word has planted hope and displayed God's saving glory to the nations, and for the homes in which we teach this Word to our children and live it out in holy lives, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For peace in the world, for an end to violence, for the restoration of hope and lives still suffering from the effects of the pandemic, for justice, for the will to protect life from its beginning to its natural end, and for those in need, let us pray of the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For grace to believe the Word we hear, for repentant hearts to receive worthily the grace of Christ's body and blood in this Holy Communion, for our strong unity in doctrine, and for our harmony in our life together as the Body of Christ, the Church, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For those who suffer any need of body or soul, for the sick, for the aged, for the grieving, and for those in their last days, [*especially*. . .], that the Lord be their healing, strength, comfort, and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the saints who endured in the holy confession of Your name, for the martyrs whose sacrifice inspires us still, and for all the saints who rest from their labors, that we join them on that promised day when Christ shall join the faithful as one in the marriage supper of the Lamb in His kingdom without end, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, O Lord.

Silence for meditation

Leader: For all things needful to this body and life and for all things profitable to our salvation, let us pray in the name of Christ, the Word made flesh, in whom we behold the glory of the eternal Trinity, now and to the end of the ages.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not

SANCTUS Holy, Holy, Holy (TLH 246 Sts. 1)

1. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee; Holy holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20;*

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** *Revelation 22:20*

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF CHRIST BODY AND BLOOD

Music – Joy to the World“ [TLH 87]
“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” [TLH 94]

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, Creator of all things, we give You thanks that on this day You gave Your Word in flesh to be our Savior and Redeemer. Grant us eyes to see His glory and ears to hear His voice that we may behold that glory and not depart from its light even to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
Numbers 6:24–26

People: **Amen.**

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**