

Introduction to Advent

Advent means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the Christmas season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ in his First Advent. This leads to an anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. Thus, Advent is far more than simply marking a 2000-year-old event in history. It is celebrating the revelation of God in Christ through which all of creation might be reconciled to Him!

Advent also symbolizes the spiritual journey of individuals and a congregation, whereby we affirm that Christ has come, that He is present in the world today, and that He will come again in majesty. This truth provides a basis for Kingdom living with our call to be faithful stewards of what is entrusted to us as God's people. As we celebrate Christ's birth, we honor Advent by loving God, loving others and serving Christ in the world!

Pastor Bud



Cover Art: "God's Holy Son, The Promise Fulfilled"

©2021, Original Drawing by Mr. Jason Kissinger

HOPE



Jesus said, I am the light of the world; 'he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life' - John 8:12

The first candle lit on the Advent wreath reminds us of the light of **HOPE** that the prophets had in their expectation of a Messiah who would bring peace and love to the world.

Sunday, November 28

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. —John 1:1-5

God gave us HOPE from the very beginning. HOPE – a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen, a feeling of trust. Verses 1 – 3 teaches us that before there was anything, there was the Word. The Word is God. Jesus was with God when the world was created. Jesus the Messiah was fully God. Jesus was later going to be fully human. To know Jesus is to know God.

In **1 Timothy 1:1**, Paul describes Jesus Christ as “our hope.” In Titus 2:13, he says Jesus is “our blessed hope.” Jesus not only came to bring hope, but He is our hope. We can fully trust Jesus to provide us with eternal life. At the cross, He took on our sins. When we believe by faith in Jesus Christ, He forgives us and transforms us into his likeness. Jesus gives us the hope of eternal life in Heaven with Him.

Do you enjoy the lights at Christmas time? They are bright and colorful. They help us to see, and the light takes away our fears. We may be concerned about our health, family, finances, loneliness or death, but Jesus said in verse 4, “In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.” Verse 5 says,” The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

The Christmas season is a wonderful time for so many reasons, but one of the most important reasons is the hope that Christ brings to a lost world. The Bible says Jesus came to save the lost. That means He came to save us! Jesus was born into this world at Christmas so that He could grow to be a man and die on the cross for our sins.

If we are discouraged - tired of waiting - feel like giving up - facing too many disappointments in life – then come to Jesus because our hope is found in Him alone.

Hope in Christ will get us through the waiting. Hope in Christ does not disappoint. Let us place our hope in Christ right now!

Bud and Donna Goude

Monday, November 29

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel. —Isaiah 7:14

Christmas is a time to celebrate God's miracles. Starting with the virgin birth. If you think about that, it is impossible! But nothing is impossible with God. The miracle of the appearance of angels: once to Mary, to inform and encourage her and to Joseph, to inform and calm him down.

The miracle of the stars and planets aligning just at the right time to announce the birth of Jesus to the world.

The miracle of Jesus birth in a humble stable! The Baby! The King! My Savior, my Redeemer!

It is amazing how no matter what we do, we cannot change God's plan for us!

To every thing there is a season, and time to every purpose under the heaven:
(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Merry Christmas!
Laraine and KC Sentz

Tuesday, November 30

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.*

...

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.*

*He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with
justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.*

The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

-Isaiah 9:2-7

Verses 6 & 7 are the most renowned (NIV):

*6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his
shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace.*

*7 Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign
on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice
and righteousness from that time on and forever.*

The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Have great hope and keep your faith in Him, the rock of our foundation. Israel at the time of Isaiah needed a savior and deliverer from their enemies, much as we do today. These past 2 years have been so tough for so many of us. Have faith, Jesus has conquered all and will lead us all in peace everlasting soon. Shout and sing to Hosanna, Amen!

Tim Owens and family

Wednesday, December 1

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord ... and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge ...

... The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. ... The infant will play near the cobra's den and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. ... Isaiah 11:1-9

The prophet Isaiah wrote: *“The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.”* (11:6) How wonderful to think a wild animal would lie down peacefully beside a defenseless little lamb. Imagine a time when all animals and people become peaceful and do not wish to harm each other.

In today's climate, we see fighting in our streets, in the shopping centers, even in our schools. We see disagreements in our homes, and countries are at war with each other. We all hope and pray for a time when everyone will be at peace.

When Isaiah speaks about peace he is talking about God's love that comes to us through Jesus. It is through that love we experience peace. Look to the future with Hope. Think of a time when *“the wolf will live with the lamb”*.....and we will know peace.

The world that Isaiah is describing is not one ruled by politicians, or generals. It is a world ruled by a little child. These words are Isaiah's way of describing a peace that we only dream about. It's the peace the angels proclaimed at the first Christmas when they said, *“On earth peace, good will toward men”*. (Luke 2:14) It is a world ruled by a tiny child, born in very humble circumstances in a little out of the way country. In spite of what it seemed, this child is the Prince of Peace. He came to bring harmony and reconciliation.

If we desire to have Peace in our country, Peace in our lives, we must first have Peace in our hearts and that comes only through the little child born in a stable.

With love and blessings, Sonya Anthony

Thursday, December 2

*I will sing of the Lord's great love forever;
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.*

*I will declare that your love stands firm forever,
that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.*

You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,

I have sworn to David my servant,

'I will establish your line forever

and make your throne firm through all generations.'" - Psalm 89:1-4

Christmas 2021! This psalm exalting our merciful and perfectly faithful Lord is a soothing balm to us wearied Christians as we continue to struggle with COVID and the litany of social and moral issues never before imagined. The psalmist sings with joy the promise of our Father to remain faithful and merciful to *all generations*. The psalmist sings of a covenant sworn to David and a seed that will be established forever... A prophecy fulfilled by the birth, crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

May we this Christmas season take more time to "be still" and know that He is God. He is Sovereign, and is abiding with us in merciful and faithful love. Let us celebrate like never before the birth of Christ; let us represent our faith by the way we speak and act – may we make known with our mouths the mercy of the Lord to all generations.

Amy Jacobson

Friday, December 3

*Marshal your troops now, city of troops, for a siege is laid against us. They will strike Israel's ruler on the cheek with a rod. "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And **he will be our peace** when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses. - Micah 5:1-5a*

How shall he be our Peace? Micah 5:1-5a

In my Bible studies I found the connection between the disbursal of the Jews and the Magi finding Jesus 600 years later. The disbursing Jews had carried with them the Laws and the Prophets, eventually assimilating intellectually with the Wise men of the East, who recognized the prophecies as truth! Their faith brought them to Jerusalem following the star in the east; not a star hanging indefinitely high, nor a fleeting comet but a divine light.

During this advent season, I am again amazed by the revealed eternal plans of God, developing steadily toward the fulfillment of His plan for humanity. The Prophet Micah's work added to that of his contemporary, Isaiah, in warning Israel of their impending punishment. This served to confirm both of their prophecies. Micah describes a siege of Jerusalem, wherein the people withdraw into a bundle as their judge suffers the contempt of their conqueror 'striking his cheeks'. Micah becomes the comforter, reminding Israel that just as David came from tiny Bethlehem, so shall a new ruler, but God had always predetermined this one to be the eternal king.

The child is from Bethlehem; the son is from eternity. God will give up his people, but a remnant shall return after "she who travailed hath brought forth." The travails of pregnancy must have been exceptional as the Holy Family travelled under emergency conditions, long distances to foreign lands. Micah finally describes the gentle, powerful shepherd standing in defense of his flock and feeding them the strength of Jehovah.

How shall he be our peace? Because we ought to be satisfied with such protection. We also know the peace we have by being reconciled to our Father! Our consciences are at peace with the confidence that God is our Father.

Gordon Smith

Saturday, December 4

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord,
“when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch,
a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.
In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety.
This is the name by which he will be called:
The Lord Our Righteous Savior.” —*Jeremiah 23:5-6*

The Lord Our Righteous Savior

What does it take to be righteous? To be righteous in character one has to know the difference between good and evil. The Bible’s teaching on good versus evil leads to a challenging conclusion: that every person is obligated to make a fundamental choice between the two. Just like so many righteous leaders in the Bible, we too need to choose to follow God!

Our choice is entirely determined by our response to God, who is both the definition of good and our Creator. Moment by moment, that means either following His will or rebelling and choosing to sin (1 Corinthians 10:13). Eternally, this means we either choose to accept Him and His salvation (John 3:16; 14:6) or align ourselves against Him (John 3:36).

While we may be imperfect and fallible, we cannot be neutral in our approach to good versus evil. Our hearts are either seeking the goodness of God (Matthew 7:7–8; Romans 2:4) or the selfishness of evil (1 Peter 3:10–12).

God’s Holy Son, Jesus, showed us how to live a righteous life. He lived in this world in the presence of evil but still glorified God! Jesus is our righteous example. Follow Him this Christmas season and all the days of your life!

Merry Christmas!
Leslie Belvin

Peace



Jesus said, I am the light of the world; 'he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life' - John 8:12

This first candle reminds us of the light of **HOPE** of the prophets.

The second candle reminds us of the light of **PEACE** God offers us in Christ Jesus.

We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. - Romans 5:1
Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. - John 14:27
He is our peace. - Ephesians 2:14

Sunday, December 5

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years. “So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,” says the LORD Almighty. “I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. – Malachi 3:1-6

“Were you a good little boy?”

‘Yes!’ was always my answer just like all kids answer. Sure didn’t want to miss on all those Christmas presents under the family tree, and no matter how bad I had really been during the past year, those gifts under the tree seemed to always be there. My daddy made sure of that! I always had the Best my father could afford. Years later as a man, I realized how fortunate I was to have such a good Father.

As a Christian, I also realize how blessed I am to have such an Awesome heavenly father who expects my best at all times, and though I fail to meet His every expectation, He still provides my every need.

The book of Malachi states that God requires our best and foretold that a messenger was coming, to let us know, God was sending His Best for us! John the Baptist proclaimed, “Behold the Lamb of God”. Now we know and wait for His Majestic return!

Give your Best! And “Peace on earth, good will toward men!”

Merry Christmas!
Gus Saunders

Monday, December 6

*The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God,
as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" – Mark 1:1-3*

Messages are usually a quick note to inform us of something we are involved with. Do you remember the feeling when you received notes from school that were passed back and forth? Or how about when you got the message from the doctor that you are in good health? Remember when we received the message this year that the Fellowship Hall was complete, how happy and pleased we were? How happy the messenger must feel to bring to bring a smile to someone's face.

But these don't compare at all to John The Baptist and the message he shared with so many. Can you imagine the joy he experienced as God's messenger? The joy of knowing he was doing God's will, saving so many people, preparing the way of the Lord Jesus Christ. Such a huge responsibility, but John did it with love and humility.

The message we receive from other people can make us smile or happy. But the message of God's salvation leads to joy.

I hope you have already experienced the joy of sharing the message of Jesus Christ. This action will change your life as well as the life of who you are sharing with. There is not a better time than now.

Wishing you love, joy, and peace this Christmas season and for all times.

Merry Christmas,
Martha West

Tuesday, December 7

But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” - Luke 1:13-17

What a wonderful thing to a couple is their baby being born into the world. Sadly, it seemed Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth would never know this joy. They were getting old and had never had any children.

But, God had other plans for them!

Zechariah, by lot, had been given the honor of serving in his priestly role by burning incense on the altar of Incense in the temple. This was truly a once in a lifetime event for him! The incense symbolized the people's prayers wafting up to God and the whole congregation was outside in prayer.

Suddenly, an angel appeared and told Zechariah that his prayer had been heard. Elizabeth would bear him a son and he should name him John!

This child grew up to be John the Baptist who prepared the way for Jesus ministry.

During this Holy time of year let's remember to keep our Pastor and his family lifted up in prayer because God has wondrous things ahead for those who love and serve Him.

Margaret Sarratori

Wednesday, December 8

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said,

"Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus."

– Luke 1:26-31

Gabriel Approaches Mary

One of my favorite aspects of Christmas is gentle Mary-how she accepted God's will for her life, despite this miracle that alienated her friends. Mary was troubled by Gabriel's greeting: "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you." She showed humility, acceptance of God's favor. Her "Magnificat" (in Luke 1:46-56) demonstrates her servanthood.

Jesus preached extensively about humility. Here is how Peter voices it:

"'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble'." (Proverbs 3:34)

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:56-7

Does God still call us with angels (or in dreams)? The Bible is clear and prayers also bring answers. Does humility let God guide you to serve Him? Does God keep reminding you of possibilities in His kingdom until you respond?

May Mary's gentle response to God lead us to serve Christ more completely.

God bless you this Christmas Advent.

Linda Breaks

Thursday, December 9

*He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.
The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,
and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever;
His kingdom will never end. -Luke 1: 32-33*

All of us who are blessed to be parents have hopes and dreams for our children to grow up to be loving, well-behaved, healthy, smart, successful, wealthy — the list goes on. We would like to protect them from all illness, hatred, danger and unhappiness — again the list goes on and on. The way we rear them is, in large part, guided by the way our parents raised us.

When Gabriel appeared to Mary to bring her the news that she was going to have this baby boy, Jesus, he told her he would be great, he will be a king (receiving the throne of his father, David), and he would reign over the house of Jacob forever. His kingdom will last forever. Wow, what an awesome plan for this baby boy!

We are now some 2000 years after this proclamation. We know that Jesus is great, that he is a king, and that he reigns over the house of Jacob as well as the rest of this world. His kingdom is everlasting. Just not in the way it first seems. We know that though Jesus was loved by many on this earth, he was also hated by many. We know that God's definition of being king was different from the world's definition. We know that Jesus had to die, be buried, and rise to his new life, in order for his kingdom to really be established.

How thankful we are that Jesus is our King, that he reigns over all the earth, and is coming again to receive us into his Kingdom in heaven.

Have a blessed Christmas!
Jimmy and Charlene

Friday, December 10

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. - Luke 1: 34-35

Impossible Promises Fulfilled

“Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?” And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. **For with God nothing will be impossible.**” Luke 1:34-37 NKJV

This year’s Advent title, God’s Holy Child, The Promise Fulfilled, and my favorite Scripture, Luke 1:37, beautifully encapsulate my faith. As I reflected on the two, my heart was filled with hope. I claimed a new God’s promises and the hope found in Him alone. A certain hope miraculous enough for the **impossible** struggles we face as we journey through this broken world just as Mary did.

How many times have we, like Mary, known that our situation was **impossible**? Have you experienced a prognosis too critical, an addiction too entrenched, finances too bleak, a prodigal too far off, a death too soon, a relationship too strained, employment too burdensome? Let me assure you that none of these, or even all of these, are too **impossible** with God.

God calls us to place a deep faith in Him, a faith that believes He can do the **impossible**. As we celebrate this most blessed season, let’s share with a hurting world the hope found in the promise of and **impossibility** of the birth of our Savior. Let’s point them to Jesus by showing His love and telling them of His promises.

We will inevitably face challenges in the New Year. I pray we will not live in fear but live the abundant life God promises us as we trust that absolutely nothing is **impossible** with Him. May the promise and **impossibility** of Christmas fill you with all joy and peace as you seek and serve the Babe of the manger, the King of the world.

In Awe of Jesus,
Sharon Warren

Saturday, December 11

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the child you will bear!"

— Luke 1:39-42

This passage picks up just after the angel Gabriel had given Mary the news that she was highly favored by God and chosen to conceive and give birth to the one who would be called, “the Son of the Highest!” Soon after hearing that, the angel told her that her once barren cousin, Elizabeth was now six weeks pregnant. Well, that could only mean one thing – a trip to visit her relative in Judea was in order, and she left in a hurry. As the sovereignty of God would have it, Elizabeth’s baby leaped in her womb as soon as she heard Mary’s greeting. At that time, Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost, who then inspired her to proclaim the blessedness of Mary among women, and the blessedness of the fruit of her womb.

Oh, what a confirmation that must have been to Mary. Imagine how she must have been playing over in her mind the words the angel spoke to her just a few days earlier. She would actually be the one God would use to give birth to the long-awaited Messiah, the Savior of the World! How amazed and humbled she must have felt.

May our hearts be filled with gratitude and praise to God for loving us so much and that He miraculously fulfilled the promise He made to send His Son to take away our sins and give us eternal life!

Have a joyous Christmas!

David and Angie Crummett

Joy



Jesus said, I am the light of the world; 'he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life' - John 8:12

This first candle reminds us of the light of **HOPE** of the prophets.

The second candle reminds us of the light of **PEACE** God offers us in Christ Jesus.

The third candle is a symbol of the great light and **JOY** which surrounded the shepherds at the announcement of Jesus' birth.

Sunday, December 12

When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said,

“No! He is to be called John.”

They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.” Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.” Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. ... Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him. - Luke 1: 57-66

In Luke we learn that Zacharias was filled with great fear and was not able to believe that what they were told by the angel was true. How often do we live in fear rather than holding on to our faith and believe that all is possible through our Lord, Jesus Christ?

During this Christmas season we should be shouting the good news of the birth of the Christ rather than shopping for the perfect gift for those we love. We need to tell others about the perfect gift we received from God - our Lord, Jesus Christ. We should be willing to do more to help others and tell those around us that the Lord loves them in their circumstance, good or bad. No matter what difficulties we are experiencing, we need to hold on to the truth that God is with us and will help us through these difficulties.

Even though Elizabeth and Zacharias experienced great fear when they learned they would have a son, they also experienced great joy when the baby was delivered. We can also experience this great joy in our lives when we decide to follow Jesus.

Buddy and Ann Hogge

Monday, December 13

His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

*“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.*

*He has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David.*

- Luke 1:67-69

I think most of us as we prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ are thinking of the past year or so when we have been through so much with COVID, DELTA, masks, social distancing, etc. We have all tried to follow the rules as best we could and still go about our business. I lost three good friends to COVID and my heart still grieves for their families. My immediate family has been very fortunate that none of us have any health issues due to this awful disease. We ask ourselves why would God let 500,000 people die from this pandemic - but we are in no position to expect an answer. He gave us the power to make decisions in our lives and if some were foolish enough to go out and not take precautions about sizes of groups we associated with, etc., then it is on us. God is in Control, but if we don't follow the rules then many of us will suffer.

As I reached the age of 85 this year, I am more aware every day of what I can control and what I cannot control, and I find myself more and more relying on God's wisdom. God will NEVER leave us nor let us down - He says so many times in the Bible.

Blessings and prayers to everyone in our church group - for the holiday season when we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and in the coming year, 2022. May it be a banner year for each of us and our families.

Barbara Fryer

Tuesday, December 14

*This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:
Abraham was the father of Isaac,
Isaac the father of Jacob,
Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ...
and Jesse the father of King David. ...
and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus
who is called the Messiah. – Matthew 1:1-17*

Family trees can be interesting to observe when trying to learn more about our ancestors that came before us. Some family trees are discussed often and known by everyone in the family, while others can barely name anyone outside their immediate kin. With the rise of popular genealogy tests, one can simply provide a company with a swab of DNA to find out more about where they came from. From finding out your great grandfather was a World War I hero to revealing you are a 26x great granddaughter of King Edward III of England, there are plenty of intriguing stories to be told.

A genealogy test might be shocking to some, but imagine learning that the Messiah, the Son of God, is going to be a part of *yours*. When Mary and Joseph learned that Jesus was going to be born to *them*, one can only imagine the feelings that rushed through them. The disbelief they may have felt from such an impossible event taking place or the ridicule they would have undergone, it would have been enough for most people to reject the gift that God was bringing into the world: the *Lamb of God* that would take on the sin of the world and leave it in the grave. Without knowing what future events would unfold, Mary and Joseph were faithful servants to God and accepted the responsibility of being the earthly parents of Jesus.

While no one knows who the future additions to their family tree may be, we do know the greatest addition of all-time: the birth of Jesus Christ to the world. This Christmas, may you and your family celebrate the birth of Christ and all the blessings we receive from Him.

Merry Christmas!
Seth Gandee

Wednesday, December 15

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” – Matthew 1:18-21

As Christians, we know, Jesus was born, lived a perfect life and gave His life as a sacrifice for our sins. Because of this we will spend eternity with our Lord and Savior. This is the greatest gift that has ever been given.

Since moving to Bedford, I have become involved in a new WMU circle through the church we are attending. One of our mission projects is working with a program call Homes of Hope. Homes of Hope is a Christian-based program that provides a home and support for single mothers and their babies. They equip young moms with the life skills and parent education needed to create a stable and meaningful future. All of the moms have traumatic backgrounds, some coming from drug addictions, dangerous relationships, death of loved ones and/or poor decisions. The program, through the love of Jesus, works with the mother to build a better life for themselves and their children. And ultimately becoming thriving citizens of the community.

When they come to the Homes of Hope, the rebuilding begins. Our WMU group is focused on building relationships with the moms, with the goal of leading them to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. We are building relationships by meeting their needs. Our circle threw a Halloween party for the mothers and their children. We have also met their physical needs with gliders for their rooms, personal hygiene items, clothes for work and a car. There are also opportunities to serve through the giving of your time. I had the opportunity to help one of the mothers watch her baby, so she was able to attend a speech therapy appointment with her toddler.

There are many programs that help people in our community, but the only one that can create a lasting change in lives is Jesus Christ. Through the Holy Spirit lives are being rebuilt and the trajectory of their lives are changing. Praise the Lord! Jeremiah 29:11 says it best, *“For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

Jesus came for all of us, to give us a new life. This Christmas season let's not get caught up in finding the perfect gift, but instead share the greatest gift, the birth of JESUS CHRIST!

Merry Christmas to my GPBC family, I miss and love you all!

Paige B. Bond

Thursday, December 16

*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:
“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”
(which means “God with us”). When Joseph woke up,
he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.
But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son.
And he gave him the name Jesus. —Matthew 1:22-25*

I had a wonderful childhood growing up. My father and mother saw to it that all my needs and many of my wants were fulfilled. They brought me to Gloucester Point Baptist at a very young age and we attended almost every Sunday. I remember growing up with vacation bible schools, easter egg hunts and when I was older doing youth events. I had the very good fortune to have Tom Riley and Bill Breeden lead my Boy Scout troop.

As the youngest child, I also enjoyed the time I spent with my two siblings, sister Beverley and brother Milton Jr. My brother, who passed away this year, taught me how to play baseball, hunt, and we enjoyed many days on the water fishing, clamming, crabbing, oystering, and water skiing. My sister and brother also encouraged me into adulthood.

In today's scripture, we find a family being created where it had not existed before. Mary was with child, God's Holy Son, and Joseph was thinking of breaking his engagement to Mary. But an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream, *“Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”* *“Joseph woke up and did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him”*, he took Mary as his wife and God's Son, Jesus, was born.

Why did God insist that Jesus be born into a family with both mother and father? Was it because of social norms, so that Jesus would not be looked down upon? I don't think so. God in His wisdom knows that the family is key to meeting the needs (and some wants) of humans. Remember, Jesus was fully divine, and He was fully human.

We know the birth of Jesus was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy that God would send His Savior *“that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* God also fulfilled Jesus human needs by having Him born into a family with father and mother, and later some siblings. Joseph and Mary saw to it that Jesus had a religious education, attended ‘church’, and worshiped God the Father. Being fully human means that Jesus experienced all the challenges of this life. His family, mother, father, brothers, and sisters were certainly key to helping Jesus grow up surrounded by love.

I hope you can enjoy the love of your family this Christmas. I thank God for filling my life with a loving family. Praise be to God for the gift of His Holy Son.

Keith Belvin

Friday, December 17

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. - Luke 2:1-7

Luke 2:1-7 reminds me of a Christmas where we all came together as a family for the first time. My husband, Russell, and I had just had our son Rona. We packed up and headed to my parents' house for our first Christmas as an official "family." My sister, Amanda, and her boyfriend (later, husband) Brad were also joining us. It would be the first time we all gathered for a holiday. Little did we know how our families would grow!

Being at MY parents' house for Christmas, we wanted to carry on traditions from when we were kids. One tradition that comes to mind is "the biggest Christmas present." Sounds silly right? How can a tradition be about the biggest present: could you be any more materialistic? Well, this was special because my mom wouldn't label the gift. We had no idea who this gift belonged to until all the other gifts were opened. She would grab the present while we all sat in anticipation, waiting to see where the gift would land. Now, the biggest gift didn't always mean the best or most expensive, but that didn't matter. I still wanted it to be placed in front of me Christmas morning!! Well, this particular Christmas get-together was no different. The unmarked gift was placed discreetly behind the Christmas tree just waiting for the right time. Who would it belong to? Surely not the boyfriend: pssh, he's not even part of the family yet! Christmas morning came, gifts got opened one by one, and anticipation grew inside me! Any minute now my mom would place the biggest present in front of her nice, deserving daughter and I would leap with joy! I don't recall this being a tradition when we were really young because my parents focused on making sure we all had the same number of gifts (if you're a parent you know why this was crucial!). As we got older, they focused on quality gifts more than quantity.

Jesus was our biggest gift under the "Christmas tree" the year Caesar Augustus required a census of all Rome. God knew a quality gift would far outweigh a large quantity of gifts. Wisemen searched the stars in anticipation, waiting for the biggest present to be placed in front of them and the Messiah was born! Hallelujah, leap for joy the biggest present was ours!

Since you're dying to know, the biggest present that year went to Russell but, because he's my husband, I still counted it as a win for me :)

Julia Dawson

Saturday, December 18

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." - Luke 2:8-12

Shepherds, as many believe, were not highly esteemed members of society. While some were victims of unkind stereotypes, others did earn their poor reputations. They lived outdoors taking care of the sheep and they were dirty. They were deemed untrustworthy to give reliable witness accounts. They were ignored, overlooked, belittled, and unwelcome. They were loners and outcasts.

So, what began as a quiet, routine night for the shepherds turned out to be anything but quiet and routine!

An angel – a messenger from God- appeared to them first, spoke to them, and comforted them telling them not to be afraid. The angel shared “news of great joy” for ALL people and invited them to go see the baby – Christ the Lord. This was God’s Holy Child who had been promised and prophesied about in the scriptures.

No one ever approached the shepherds or spoke to them. No one ever cared about their feelings or welfare. No one ever shared happy news with them or invited them to take part in celebrations. In an instant, their lives were changed forever! This act of love from God gave them hope and peace and joy. God’s love and grace included them, too!

There are so many times in our lives when we feel isolated, ignored, overlooked, unloved and lost. Like the shepherds, we may feel unworthy of all God has to give us.

God’s love is for ALL no matter our circumstances. With God – through Jesus Christ- we have Hope, we have Peace, we have Joy!

Donna Phillips

Love



Jesus said, I am the light of the world; 'he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life' - John 8:12

This first candle reminds us of the light of **HOPE** of the prophets.

The second candle reminds us of the light of **PEACE** God offers us in Christ Jesus.

The third candle is a symbol of the great light and **JOY** which surrounded the shepherds at the announcement of Jesus' birth.

The fourth candle reminds us of the tremendous **LOVE** that God has for each of us.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should have everlasting life. - John 3:16

Sunday, December 19

*Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel,
praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." - Luke 2:13-14*

Love is a great thing. Love isn't something that we may always visibly see. Like air, we can't see air, but we know it's there because we can feel it. We can feel the wind blow through our hair or graze our bare skin. Like air, we can most surely feel love. Christmas isn't about materialistic things, its not about presents, Christmas trees, shining lights and trying to buy the most expensive new electronics or what's 'cool' nowadays. Christmas is about spending time with friends and family. It's about celebrating the birth of Jesus and learning about how tremendous his love is for us. Christmas is a time to reflect on what is important in our lives. I have always said that money can always come back. However, our time with family and friends is precious. As Max Lucado once said: "The story of Christmas is the story of God's relentless love for us."

God bless you and hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mackenzie and Chris

Monday, December 20

*When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,
“Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened,
which the Lord has told us about.”*

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

—Luke 2:15-20

For years, at a previous church we attended, every Christmas season we presented “A Visit to Bethlehem”, depicting the town and living Nativity. We spent weeks constructing the town of Bethlehem in front of the church, determining costumes, developing scripts, and practicing in character. There were literally dozens of non-actors that worked just as hard as the actors to make everything come out just right on the nights of the production. Over the years, we dealt with snow, sleet, rain, heat, cold and large crowds of people who waited in long lines to experience Bethlehem. I usually played one of the shepherds near the beginning of “A Visit to Bethlehem” who set the tone for the rest of the visit.

We had many practices and there was always casual banter but, when it came time for the actual production, everyone became serious. We portrayed an accurate feeling for what it must have been like for the shepherds on that night after the angels had given them the good news. Though we followed a script we had the undeniable sense in our chest that we were part of a very grand plan; a plan that man has been following since that night in Bethlehem when that little baby brought hope to all mankind.

During your time in prayer, remember the moment that you heard about the baby Jesus and the hope of salvation that came into your life/heart. Think about the shepherd that brought the good news to you and that, now, we are the shepherd taking the word to others. Each night after a production, tired and half frozen, we shared with each other stories about how the night had gone. At the end, there was a feeling that we had done a good job. But we must realize that spreading the good news of Jesus never ends, no matter where we are or what we are doing.

I pray that the baby Jesus will become part of your life.

Stewart Wood

Tuesday, December 21

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." – Luke 2:25-35

Simeon, a just and righteous man, was promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he saw the Savior. When he saw the child Jesus, he took him and praised him. As Christians we may never see the Lord face to face before we die but, we will see Him in His kingdom.

After my wife of forty years passed away, I searched for happiness without purpose not knowing what or where to look. Moving to Gloucester Point was the beginning of a new life for me. One day I decided to find a church to go to but, had no idea which one I would try. I Googled Baptist churches and Gloucester Point Baptist Church was the first to pop up. The next Sunday I drove to the church and walked through the doors to that new life. I joined the church, was baptized and became a regular. I started attending Bible study and Sunday school. I now act as a substitute teacher when the regular asks me to cover for him. I have also been chosen to be a Deacon in the church.

As scripture says I have been made new through Christ. My old life is over and my new life goes on. I know that through faith. One day I will see the face of Jesus Christ, as did Simeon. Praise the Lord.

Barry Milligan

Wednesday, December 22

There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

– Luke 2:36-38

Waiting; one of the hardest things to do. We read today about a faithful servant that waited years in “prayerful expectancy” to see the Messiah and about the joy when her prayer was answered. I wish I had her patience! When I recall the birth of our children and grandchildren I can remember the anticipation, happiness, and excitement while waiting those months. I especially remember the love, joy, and gratitude upon delivery.

I believe Anna felt the same way while waiting and praying and we know she gave thanks to God. More important, I believe that God feels the same way every time a person accepts Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The Bible tells of how the angels rejoice in heaven when a person is delivered from their sin.

Don’t keep God waiting! Share the message of Jesus Christ to bring salvation and hope to someone’s life and you will also bring joy to your life and, more importantly, joy and honor to God.

Christmas is a time of love, joy, hope, and peace. I wish this for everyone.

Merry Christmas and love in Christ,

Al West

Thursday, December 23

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. - Colossians 1:15-20

Years ago, a friend of Amy started giving her manger scenes for Christmas gifts. She took enough pleasure in seeing them that she found a place to keep them out year-round. They weren't big manger scenes that took the whole mantelpiece or a table top, but small, intricate ones, from a whimsical sea shell creation to a delicate, starched lace ornament to a rather detailed tiny scene that seems to be carved from a single piece of granite, but only two inches tall, carved out like a cave with the animals, Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus all easily recognizable! Such small, fragile, beautiful but simple creations; like Jesus himself, on the night of His birth.

But He, this tiny newborn, was First, "in the beginning", ancient kind of first; before all things, He was. He created all, the world and the people (in His likeness), that he was being born among. He created Adam and Eve, from whom his earthly mother and father came. He made the earth that the stable was upon, the cattle and sheep, that are pictured in the manger scene, and the summer grass that became hay for his tiny, delicate self, the trees that made up the stalls and manger (and later the cross). As John 1:14 says, "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth". So this child must surely have naturally resembled His Heavenly Father, more so than any of the children of Adams lineage. Mary, Joseph and a handful of shepherds were looking straight into the eyes of God! But he came as a gift to the world, to us.

He came so we could understand His humility, great compassion and mercy towards us, and to redeem us!

So then in VS 20 of our scripture where it says He reconciled all things to himself, the Greek word for reconciled (katallasso), means "to change thoroughly", and He changed everything! God had always loved his creation but being Just, here was the way he changed his relationship to mankind: from judgment to Mercy, through the Way, The Truth, and The Light, Jesus. Born for us; a small, delicate, intricate, precious gift; the best Christmas gift!

Mark Boykin

*The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.
He was in the world, and though the world was made through him,
the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own,
but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him,
to those who believed in his name,
he gave the right to become children of God. - John 1:9-12*

Have you ever anticipated an event that had you excited or nervous? Perhaps it was your first day of work at a new job, or your first job. Maybe it was an appointment that had you nervous. You knew about the event in advance, and you knew the exact date and time. How did you feel when the event was behind you; victorious, relieved, or let down? Was all the time and emotion spent in anticipation worth it?

In the case of the arrival of the Savior of the World, this event had also been predicted through prophecy even though the timing was a mystery. But the babe in a manger born to ordinary insignificant parents was neither what the world expected nor thought they wanted. Instead, He was what the world needed. And, for those with an open heart who were attentive to the angels and other signs, the birth of the Christ child was an incredible life changing experience.

Reflect briefly on the crowds of people who were in Bethlehem that night but who did not witness the birth. Imagine being SO CLOSE but not being there. To throngs of people, the miracle passed them by unnoticed. Even after Mary and Joseph returned to Nazareth with the Savior who was sent to His own people, most did not recognize Him. But the Holy Bible gives account of some who realized His significance, even as a baby or young child. They had sought Him, waited for Him, and knew Him immediately. How blessed they must have felt for their anticipation to be fulfilled! I thank God that we are His children and pray that we receive the Savior during this blessed season. May we be ready for Him when He returns.


Blessings,
Debra Wood

Joy to the World

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719.

Music: 'Antioch' pieced together from "Messiah" George F. Handel, 1741. Setting: Lowell Mason, 1836.
copyright: public domain. This score is a part of the Open Hymnal Project, 2005 Revision.

♩ = 80



1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her King;
2. Joy to the earth, the Sa - vior reigas! Let men their songs em - ploy;
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in - fest the ground;
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the na - tions prove



Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him room, And Heav'n and na - ture sing,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy,
He comes to make His bless - ings flow Far as the curse is found,
The glo - ries of His right - eous - ness, And won - ders of His love,



And Heav'n and na - ture sing, And Heav'n, and Heav'n, and na - ture sing,
Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat, re - peat, the sound - ing joy,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as, the curse is found,
And won - ders of His love, And won - ders, won - ders, of His love,

Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love



But the angel said to them,
*'Do not be afraid. I bring you good new of great joy that will be for all the people.
Today, in the town of David,
a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.*

This will be a sign to you:
You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'
Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel,
praising God and saying, *'Glory to God in the highest,
and on Earth PEACE to men on whom his favor rests'* - Luke 2: 10-14

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish,
but have everlasting life.*

*For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world;
but that the world through him might be saved. - John 3:16-17*

GOD'S GREATEST GIFT

Christ came into the world that had problems much like the ones with which we grapple today. We often imagine that the world to which Jesus came was not complicated and that its problems were not complex. But historians tell us otherwise. They tell us that the problems of that day were similar to the problems of our day.

To those without the joy of living, Jesus said, *"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly"* (John 10:10).

To those who bore the chafing burden of the guilt of sin, he said, *"Be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you"* (Matthew 9:2).

To the friendless He said, *"I call you not servants...but I have called you friends"* (John 15:15 KJV).

Christmas means that Immanuel has come-that God is with us (Matthew 1:23). It means that our sordid, failure-fraught pasts can be defeated and changed by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and his victorious resurrection. It means that we can be brought into God's family, heirs of God and citizens of Heaven. Christmas means that God comes into the night of our suffering and sorrow saying, *"I am with you always"* and, *"I will give you rest"* (Matthew 28:20; 11:28).

This Christmas season I ask you, Is Christ real to you? Does He actually live in your heart? Has He taken up residence in your life?

Make sure this Christmas of your salvation, by repenting of your sins and asking Christ to come into your life and be your Savior and Lord forever.

Graham, Billy. 2013. "God's Greatest Gift" In *God's Blessings of Christmas*, 43-44. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Notes

[illegible]

Opportunities for Involvement, Service, and Worship

Gloucester Point Baptist Church

7741 Terrapin Cove Road (P. O. Box 305), Gloucester Point, VA 23062

Phone: 804-642-2555 <http://www.gloptbaptist.org/>

November 28 First Sunday of Advent

11:00 AM Worship

December 1 6:00-7:30 PM Children's Advent Bible School (Preschool – 5th)

December 5 Second Sunday of Advent

11:00 AM Worship

December 8 6:00-7:30 PM Children's Advent Bible School (Preschool – 5th)

December 12 Third Sunday of Advent

11:00 AM Worship / Cantata – Adult Choir

December 15 6:00-7:30 PM Children's Advent Bible School (Preschool – 5th)

December 19 Fourth Sunday of Advent

11:00 AM Worship / Children's Choir

December 22 6:00-7:30 PM Children's Advent Birthday Party for Jesus
Youth Christmas Party

December 24 Christmas Eve

5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service

December 26 Worship

11:00 AM Worship

Gloucester Point Baptist Church invites you to join us each Sunday at 9:45 AM for Sunday School and at 11:00 AM for Worship.