

Morning Worship

December 8, 2019

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ ---

Worship Leader — Romey Keith Davis

Piano — Alva Lou Schottel

As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Welcome and Fellowship

Allan/People

Scripture Reading

Romey Keith Davis

Hymn # 93 *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* Romey/People

Worship Prayer

Allan Lane

Hymn # 97

Sing Hosannas

Romey/People

Hymn # 96

Good Christian Men Rejoice

Leader/People

Offering Prayer

Al Shirley

Tithes and Offerings

People

Offering Music

Alva Lou Schottel

Chorus # 28

He Is Here

Romey/People

Chorus # 21

Surely the Presence

Romey/People

Special Music

Debbie Wilson and Al Shirley

Message

Allan Lane

Hymn # 305 *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus* Romey/People

Prayer Concerns

Allan/People

Closing Chorus # 386

The Family of God

Romey/People

The Meaning of Christmas: Relate

Hebrews 4:14-16

Today there is Good News to share. Our God is one who can relate to us in an understanding and life-changing way. This is possible because of what Christmas means. We celebrate God coming to this earth in the person of Jesus Christ, making it possible for Him to relate to each us personally, understandingly, and intimately. The writer of Hebrews tells us what God accomplished for us through the person of Jesus Christ and His coming to earth.

1. His Identification with Us. Verse 15

Part of why God can relate to us is that through Christ He has "walked where we walk." He battled temptation just like we do. Only He succeeded. He was hungry, He was thirsty, He was tired, He was injured. He knows what it is like to lose a loved one, He knows what it is like to be betrayed by those you trust, He knows what it is like to have people spread rumors about you, He knows what it is like to be unpopular. He knows what it is like to have everyone brand you a "success" and what it is like to

have everyone brand you a "failure." His identification with us was part of what Christmas is all about.

a. He has walked where we walk.

b. He has succeeded where we fail.

It was foretold in Matthew 1:22-23. In her book "Gift Wrapping God," Mary Ellen Ashcroft said, "To get ready for Christmas, God undressed. God stripped off his finery and appeared - how embarrassing - naked on the day he was born . . . God could not be "God-with-us" if He wasn't flesh. As evangelicals we have focused on the saving death of Christ but thrown out the Incarnation in our Christmas wrappings. As we cover God with Christmas, we hide what is most distinctive about Christianity. And this is the tragedy: What many don't know about Christianity is that God has chosen to identify with their pain, their humanness, their flesh."

He knows what life on this earth is like, because He has walked where we walk, yet He did so victoriously. That brings us to the next point in that He won the victory for us.

2. His Victory for Us. Verse 14 "Who has gone through the heavens"

Peter described the nature of the victorious life of Jesus in Acts 2:22-24; 32-33.

a. He was humbled in death.

b. He was exalted in ascension.

The victory Jesus won for us is that He lived a perfect, sinless life, ending it by dying on the cross, where He suffered the penalty for the sins of the entire world. As evidence of the fact that sin has been fully paid for, He was raised from the dead and has ascended to heaven. Jesus Christ, in His humanity is now seated, as some translations put it, "on the right hand of God." What does this expression mean?

The story is told of a little girl and her mom discussing the morning Sunday school class. The child told her mom that they talked about Jesus going up to heaven and that He is now sitting beside God.

As they continued to look at the Sunday School paper, the mother noticed a picture of a rainbow. She said, "Look at that beautiful rainbow that God painted for us!"

The little girl replied, "And just think, Mommy, God did it all with His left hand."

The mother replied, "What do you mean? Can't God use both His hands?"

The girl stated, "Of course not, Mom, my Sunday School Teacher said that Jesus is sitting on His right hand."

Just what is meant when we are told the Jesus Christ is at the "right hand of God?" It means that Jesus, in His humanity, has been exalted to a position of honor and power. It refers to what Paul tells us in Philippians 2:6-11.

Because of His identification with us and the victory He won for us, Jesus is uniquely qualified to minister to us.

3. His Ministry to Us. Verse 14 "High Priest"

The writer of Hebrews refers to Jesus as our "great high priest," which refers to two things Jesus has did and is doing. You see the priest of old had two primary functions:

a. Represent God before Men.

He represented God before men. This is what Jesus did. When He walked upon this earth, He made God known to us. He represented God before men. In Christ, we learn what God is like and we learn what God's desires for us are (Colossians 1:15).

b. Represent Men before God.

He represented men before God. This is what Jesus is doing. This is why He is at "the right hand of God." He occupies this special place of honor and power, so that He might represent us before God (Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25).

Jesus is our defense attorney in the court of heaven (1 John 2:1-2). In the courtroom of heaven, God the Father is the judge of all mankind. Satan is the prosecuting attorney, "who keeps bringing before our God charges against them day and night" (Revelation 12:10). Jesus, however, is our defense attorney.

Christ's strategy, however, is not to plead our innocence. He has entered a plea of "guilty." However, His argument is that the punishment required by God's law has already been carried out. It was carried out by Jesus, Himself. This is something He has done, "for the whole world" (1 John 2:2). However, not everyone has accepted Jesus' offer to represent them as their heavenly attorney. How does one enlist Jesus as their heavenly defense attorney? The same you enlist an earthly attorney - you call Him (Romans 10:9; 13, Matthew 10:32, Revelation 3:5).

Have you enlisted Jesus Christ as your heavenly representative? If not, then you are in danger of having your name "blotted out of the book of life" and having Satan succeed in his prosecution of you, which will only leave the judge of all mankind with no other choice than to carry out the sentence of eternal death. It has been said that "the man who represents himself in court has a fool for a client." Do foolishly try to make things right with God on your own. Instead, take Jesus up on His offer.

4. His Invitation to Us. Verse 16

a. Don't be shy .

Jesus is qualified by virtue of His experience (walking where we walk), His accomplishment (His victory of sin and death), and His position (at the right hand of the Father) to help us with anything we need. This is what it means to "approach the throne of grace with confidence (boldly)." We need not be shy about talking to Jesus about anything.

b. What do you need ?

Do you need to be saved from hell and enter into a right relationship with God? Turn to Jesus. Do you require wisdom to know how to live the new life you have received through faith in Christ? Turn to Jesus.

Conclusion

We cannot be made right with God on our own, and we cannot live right for God on our own. We need to look to Jesus. He is our "Wonderful Counselor." He knows understands where we are and what we're going through. He can guide us in living life as God designed it to be lived - the way that He lived.

Through Him, we need not be overwhelmed by problems, but we can overcome our problems. Through Him we can find grace and mercy to help in time of need, whatever the need!

Take Him up on His invitation. Our God can relate to us. This is the meaning of Christmas.

We Must Look To Jesus!

The Second Sunday of Advent

Last week we gave suggestions for the first candle of the advent wreath. Did you light the candle reminding of the Prophets of old and the foretelling of the birth of Jesus? The second

candle to light in your home is to help you remember the Angels.

Angels were Gods special messengers who proclaimed the coming of the Christ Child (Luke 1-2). It was an angel that came to Mary to tell her that she would conceive and have a son, even though she was still a virgin. An angel came to Joseph, the betrothed husband of Mary, to tell him, "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit." And it was an angel who announced to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which shall be for all people; for today in the city of David there has been born to you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Let's talk a little about angels. Angels are mentioned in 34 of the 66 books of the Bible. The angels in the Christmas story came to bring a message to others from God. Interestingly enough, the messages were all quite similar, and each contained the phrase, "Don't be afraid."

The prominence of angels in the Christmas story is obvious, from the Christmas card we send, to the decorations on our trees, to the adornment of our yards, we're surrounded by angels. Hollywood gets in on the angel action, too. No, I'm not talking about the movie starring John Travolta as Michael the archangel, though Gabriel does figure prominently in the Christmas story. Then, there's Roma Downey and Della Reese who were the stars of the TV series *Touched by an Angel*. Of course, the all-time favorite Christmas angel is Clarence Odbody from Frank Capra's classic *It's a Wonderful Life*.

Nowhere, though, are angels more prominent at Christmas than in our music—the songs we sing. The Baptist Hymnal contains many songs that feature tales of angels in some fashion.

So, what's with all the angels? Why don't we see angels anymore since they figure so prominently in the Christmas story? Seriously, if we were to see an angel, our response would be exactly like all the people to whom the angels came—with shock and fear. However, their shock and fear was soon transformed into hope and expectation, and that's where we discover what we can learn from these characters of Christmas.

Prayer: Father, today we continue our time of preparation for the birthday of your Son. May the lighting of this candle remind us that You sent special messengers – the angels – to proclaim the coming of Jesus Christ. As we view this candle may we remember that You always send messengers into the world – because you love the world and you want to see people saved. As your Word always proves to be faithful may Your promises burn brightly in our lives.

God Bless You!
Bro. Allan ☺

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, December 8, 2019

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Gary Yarbrough, Don Sharp, Ken Nice

Alternate: Joe Coats

Evening Worship....6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 11

Prayer Warriors 10:00 am

Prayer/Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Sunday, December 15, 2019

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, John Lewis, George Burgess, Bill Schottel

Alternate: Ken Nice

Christmas Tea at the Lanes

2:00-4:00pm

No Evening Worship... 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 18

Prayer/Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Up-Coming Events

December 11 — Prayer Warriors 10 am

December 15 — Christmas Tea at the Lanes 2:00-4:00 pm

December 21 — Church-wide Caroling 4 pm

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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December 24 — Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm

Sunday Night

We will have Sunday Night service tonight. Join us and our church family as we continue to study *The Ten Commandments*.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

Last week we began a new study entitled “Who Needs Christmas.” Won’t you please attend and pray for the direction of our church?

Urgent Prayer Need Youth Sunday School Teacher

Is God calling you to serve? It would be good to have more than one person. Pray about it! God knows our need!
For more information,
talk to Bro. Allan.

Welcome New Members

Bob and Linda Conz
515 South 31st Street
Saint Joseph, MO 64501

The Christmas Card Mail Box

It will be done a little bit differently this year. There will be a collection box in the entryway for everyone to "mail" their cards. If you would like to share cards with your church family, you may place them in the box throughout the month of December. Then our youth will sort the mail, and deliver it between Sunday School and Church. As always, we suggest you use the money you save on postage to contribute to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Our church goal is \$1,500.00

Christmas Tea With the Lanes

December 15

2—4 pm

You are invited to enjoy an afternoon of Christmas Fellowship at the parsonage. Plan to come and relax for a moment during the busy holiday season. We're looking forward to seeing you!

For the Record-

Attendance: December 1, 2019

Sunday School.....	24
Visitors.....	1
Total.....	25
Contacts Made.....	1
Morning Worship.....	36
Sunday Night	N/A
Children's Worship	9

Wednesday Night 7

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget \$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ... \$ 3,228.40
Lottie Moon \$ 400.00
Long Family – November \$ 150.00
:

Offering Received by Mail:

Toni Wyrick

December Counting Team:

Linda Dotson and Jordan Lane

December Van Driver:

Yogi Swymeler

Remember to call 232-3747

before 8 am if you need a ride.

December Member Birthdays:

03 ... Brent Fortune
09 ... Allison Adkison
15 ... George Burgess
16 ... Addison Leichti
16 ... Doris Richardson
19 ... Jessica Kirkpatrick
20 ... Brenda Burgess
23 ... Joseph Coats

December Anniversaries

Bill and Alva Lou Schottel
December 22, 1962

Prayer Requests ...

Betty Campbell
Dottie Wildberger
Robert Brinkman
Romey Keith Davis
Gary Hurst—cancer
Corey Whorton
Jim and Brigida Winans
Janette Shirley—Al’s daughter-in-law
Ruth Anne Bush and Family
Carl Conard—Jack’s cousin
John Lewis
Mike Green—ankle surgery
Jack and Flo Conard
Sharon Russell—George’s sister
June Fritchle
Susie Long—Alice Coat’s Sister

Swymeller's Grandsons—kidneys
Shirley Wilson—strength and recovery
Sandy and Stanley Wilson
Linda Huff—PTL! Cancer free!
Romey Keith Davis—Music
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings
Arlette Duty—strength
Karissa and Matt Long and family
Tim Waters
Chuck and Gloria Stewart
Sharri Duty
Stephanie & Jason Terpack—guidance
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
Doris Richardson Elmer Mayse
Kevin Duty Tim Izer
Bill Dunn Nellie Reynolds
Ann Riddle Kenny Duty
Keon McKahan Buddy Means
Jozy Winans Curtis Conard
Pat Means Seth Long
Bill & Juanita Brenda Burgess
Pat Puckett
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service Women and Men
Terrorism in our world

Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
