

Worship Bulletin

3rd Sunday of Advent, December 17, 2023



"The Harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" ~ Luke 10:2

Welcome!

For God's glory and by His grace, Harvest Fellowship exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ who are progressively growing in their love of God, their love of people, and their commitment to help others grow as disciples.

If you are visiting us today, we would like to connect with you! Please scan the QR code in the insert or complete the yellow 'Welcome' card and place it in the offering plate by the sanctuary entrance.

God Calls Us

Call To Worship – Psalm 126:1-3,5

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad. Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!

Prayer of Invocation

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Words translated by John M Neale, Music: Veni Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

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All the World Awaits (Hosanna)

Words & Music by Jason Ingram, Chris Tomlin, Matt Maher

All the world awaits, the promise of His birth
Open up the gates, heaven come to earth
A host of angels sing, our Savior here to dwell
The King of every King Our Emmanuel

Hosanna, hosanna

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest

Hosanna to our God

Behold the Son of Man, here in a manger lay
Worthy is the Lamb for He has come to save,
To take away our sin He freely gave His life,
Born that we may live and in Him never die

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace

Hail the Son of righteousness

Light and life to all He brings

Glory to the newborn King

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God Renews Us

Advent Reading: Galatian 3:1-9 (p. 973)

¹ O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. ² Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? ³ Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by^[a] the flesh? ⁴ Did you suffer^[b] so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? ⁵ Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— ⁶ just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?

⁷ Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. ⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify^[c] the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” ⁹ So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Lighting of Advent candles Hope, Peace & Joy (2 purple, 1 pink)

Manger Throne (Glory Be to You Alone)

Words & music by Phil Wickham

You could have stepped into creation,
With fire for all to see
Brought every tribe and nation to their knees
Arriving with the host of Heaven in royal robe and crown
The rulers of the earth all bowing down
But You chose meekness over majesty
Wrapped Your power in humanity

Glory be to You alone

King who reigns from a manger throne

My life, my praise, everything I own

To Jesus the King on a manger throne

You could have marched in all Your glory,
Into the heart of Rome
Showed them splendor like they'd never known
But You wrote a better story in humble Bethlehem
Creator in the arms of common men
You will die for our redemption
And You'll rise so we could live

From Heaven to the cradle

From cradle to the cross

Let Heaven and nature sing: This is our King

But the grave couldn't hold Him

Our God has overcome

Let Heaven and nature sing: this is our King

All hail the King, All hail the King, All hail the King

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Prayers of the People

God Speaks to Us

“The Coming King”

Genesis 17:1-21 (p. 11, 12)

Barry Noll

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, ² that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” ³ Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, ⁴ “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings

shall come from you. ⁷ And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸ And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”

⁹ And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. ¹⁰ This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹ You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹² He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, ¹³ both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴ Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

¹⁵ And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶ I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.” ¹⁷ Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” ¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before you!” ¹⁹ God said, “No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. ²⁰ As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation. ²¹ But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year.”

God Strengthens Us

Prayer of Confession

God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things— our hearts are filled with joy. By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom. Salvation is your gift to us. But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts. We try to complete what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full; we try to earn what we already have. Forgive us for our foolishness. Help us to focus on your grace. Help us to live grateful lives in return. For Jesus’ sake alone, Amen. — (based on Psalm 126)

The Lord's Supper

Harvest Fellowship welcomes all baptized Christians who are willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation to partake in the Lord's Supper with us.

*(The pink cups in the outer ring of the communion tray contained wine.
The rest is grape juice)*

God Sends Us

Worship through Tithes & Offerings

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich" ~ 2 Corinthians 8:9

General offering: metal plate; Mercy Ministry (2nd Sunday): wooden plate

You may also give online at <https://www.hfpca.org/giving> or mail your offering to Harvest Fellowship, P.O. Box 475, Lusby, MD 20657

Midnight Clear (Love Song)

Words & Music by Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, and Jonas Myrin

It came upon the midnight clear
That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold
Peace on the earth, goodwill to men
From heaven's all gracious King
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled
And still their heavenly music floats
Through all the weary world
And man at war with man hears not
The love song which they bring
O hush the noise and cease the strife
And hear the angels sing

Glory to God in the highest!
Glory to God evermore!
Good news, great joy for all!
Melody breaks through the silence
Christ, the Savior is born!
Jesus, the love song of God!

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Benediction

Passing of peace/Announcements

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Prayer is available in the Prayer Room

Sermon Notes

For Further Discussion:

1. What is the connection between waiting and Advent? How have you balanced the busyness of the holidays with patient expectation of Jesus meeting you during Advent?
2. How does God's new name for Abram relate to God's purpose for him (vv. 5-8; Gen. 12:2)? What implications does Abraham's name have on the purpose of the church (Matt. 28:18-20)?
3. Why does God's covenant with Abraham include circumcision (vv. 9-14)? What is the relationship between circumcision and baptism (Col. 2:11-12; Acts 2:38-39; Rom. 4:11-12)?
4. What is the relationship between Sarai's new name and God's purpose for her (vs. 15-16)? How does God's promise to Abraham and Sarah of kings coming from them foreshadow the coming of the true king to reign in Mount Zion Heb. 12:22-24)?
5. What does Isaac's name mean (vv. 17-19)? How does his name relate not only to Abraham and Sarah's response to his birth, but also to the wonder of the first Advent of Christ (Lk. 1:46-55; Lk. 2: 10-11, 13-14)?