

# Worship Bulletin

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, December 3, 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 – Luke 1:68-75***

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

### ***Prayer of Invocation***

#### ***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus***

Words & music by Charles Wesley, Rowland H Prichard

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see Thee, day-spring from on high, appear;  
Come, Thou promised Rod of Jesse, of Thy birth we long to hear!  
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:  
"Go to Him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end;  
By His life He brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;  
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

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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: Galatians 3:15-29 (p. 973, 974)***

<sup>15</sup> To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. <sup>16</sup> Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ. <sup>17</sup> This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. <sup>18</sup> For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.

<sup>19</sup> Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. <sup>20</sup> Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one.

<sup>21</sup> Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. <sup>22</sup> But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

<sup>23</sup> Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup> So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.

<sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, <sup>26</sup> for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. <sup>27</sup> For as many of

you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

### ***Lighting of Advent candle of Hope (purple)***

#### ***Isaiah 43 (Do Not Fear)***

Words Isaiah 43:1-2

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,  
And the waves will not overcome you.  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you,  
I have called you by name; you are mine.

**For I am the Lord your God**

**I am the Lord your God**

**I am the Holy One of Israel, your Savior**

**For I am the Lord your God**

**I am the Lord your God**

**I am the Holy One of Israel, your Savior**

*I am the Lord, (Men)*

*Do not fear! (Women)*

When you walk through the fire, you'll not be burned,  
And the flames will not consume you.  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you,  
I have called you by name, you are mine.

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### ***Prayers of the People***

## **God Speaks To Us**

### ***"God's Covenant"***

***Genesis 15:1-21 (p. 10, 11)***

***Barry Noll***

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." <sup>4</sup> And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are

able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

<sup>6</sup> And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup> And he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." <sup>8</sup> But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" <sup>9</sup> He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup> And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. <sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. <sup>13</sup> Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. <sup>14</sup> But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. <sup>15</sup> As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. <sup>16</sup> And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, <sup>19</sup> the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, <sup>20</sup> the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, <sup>21</sup> the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites."

## God Strengthens Us

### ***Westminster Larger Catechism #30***

**Leader:** *Does God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?*

**All:** God does not leave all men to perish in the estate of sin and misery, into which they fell by the breach of the first covenant, commonly called the covenant of works; but of his mere love and mercy delivers his elect out of it, and brings them into an estate of salvation by the second covenant, commonly called the covenant of grace.

### ***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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### ***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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### ***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***

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### ***Sermon Notes***

## ***Discussion Questions***

1. How have the holidays reminded you of broken promises that you made or ways that others have failed you? What efforts have you or others made to remedy those broken promises?
2. What promises does God make to Abram in this text (vv. 1, 4-6)? How would you describe Abram's faith to believe those promises (vv. 2-3)?
3. Where in your life do you currently have trouble believing in God's promises for you? What risks of faith are you willing to take based on God's faithfulness to you in the past (2 Tim. 2:13)?
4. What does it mean that Abram's faith is counted to him as righteousness (vs. 6; Gal. 3: 6-14; Rom. 4:9, 22, Jas. 2:23)? How is comforting to you that your righteousness (salvation) is not based on your weak faith (2 Cor. 5:21)?
5. What is God's covenant with Abram (vv. 17-21)? How might the fulfillment of this covenant promise in Christ on the cross impact the way you prepare your heart for this Advent season (Gal. 3:13-14)?