



## THE SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 27, 2020

### REFLECTIONS

“And one day, God would send another baby, a baby promised to a girl who didn’t even have a husband. But this baby would bring laughter to the whole world. This baby would be everyone’s dream come true.”

SALLY LLOYD-JONES | THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE

“Who among us will celebrate Christmas correctly? Whoever finally lays down all power, all honor, all reputation, all vanity, all arrogance, all individualism beside the manger; whoever remains lowly and lets God alone be high; whoever looks at the child in the manger and sees the glory of God precisely in his lowliness.”

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER | GOD IS IN THE MANGER

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader And the angel said to them,  
“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.  
**All For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**  
Leader And this will be a sign for you:  
“You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”  
**All And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”**  
Leader Let us join the chorus and praise the King of kings and Lord of lords!

### CHRISTMAS SONG OF PRAISE

JOY TO THE WORLD / ISAAC WATTS

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing!	3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.	4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

### A CHRISTMAS PROFESSION OF FAITH

Leader Brothers and Sisters, people of God, what do you believe and whom do you trust?  
**All As the Apostle Paul tells us:**  
“**Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**”

— from *Philippians 2:5-11*

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## CHRISTMAS SONG OF PRAISE

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### O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL / JOHN WADE

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

**REFRAIN**

*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God, glory in the highest;

3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be glory given; Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing;

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## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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**Together**

Lord Jesus, we are like sheep, and we get lost.  
We forget the needs of our neighbors and do not love you above all else.  
We need a Savior, so we long for you.  
Thank you for coming and promising to come again.  
Come, forgive us and fill our lives with your wonderful grace. **Amen.**

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## WORDS OF COMFORT & PEACE

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Leader

“He was supreme in the beginning and—leading the resurrection parade—he is supreme in the end. From beginning to end he’s there, towering far above everything, everyone. So spacious is he, so roomy, that everything of God finds its proper place in him without crowding. Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things, animals and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the cross.” Believe these words and be at peace! — *From Col. 1, The Message*

**All**

**Thanks be to God!**

Leader

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All**

**And also with you.**

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## GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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\* *Take a moment during announcements and “pass the peace” by leaving a comment, texting, calling or emailing one another. Send us a selfie!*

\*\* *Check our website for the latest updates and ways to invest in the life of our church and city.*

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## THE MORNING LESSON - LUKE 17:1-16

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<sup>1</sup>And he said to his disciples, “Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! <sup>2</sup> It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. <sup>3</sup> Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, <sup>4</sup> and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.”

<sup>5</sup>The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” <sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, “If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

<sup>7</sup> “Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once and recline at table?’ <sup>8</sup> Will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink?’ <sup>9</sup> Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? <sup>10</sup> So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’”

<sup>11</sup> On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup> And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance <sup>13</sup> and lifted up their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” <sup>14</sup> When he saw them he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. <sup>15</sup> Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; <sup>16</sup> and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving him thanks. [ESV]

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## THE SERMON — BRANNIN PITRE

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*Sermon Title: “Servanthood”*

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## CLOSING SONG

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### GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay,  
remember Christ our Savior  
was born on Christmas day,  
to save us all from Satan's pow'r  
when we were gone astray;

**REFRAIN**

*O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

2. In Bethlehem, in Israel,  
this blessed Babe was born,  
and laid within a manger  
upon this blessed morn;  
the which his mother Mary  
did nothing take in scorn.

3. From God our heav'nly Father,  
a blessed angel came;  
and unto certain shepherds  
brought tidings of the same:  
how that in Bethlehem was born  
the son of God by name.

**REFRAIN**

*O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

4. Now to the Lord sing praises  
all you within this place,  
and with true love and brotherhood  
each other now embrace;  
this holy tide of Christmas  
all others doth deface.

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## FINAL BENEDICTION & SENDING

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Leader Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. Be filled with the light of the Lord and be lights to the world! — based on Isaiah 60:1

All **Glory to God in the highest! Amen!**

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## THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

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It's still Christmas! Christmas is not a single day affair, but a 12 day feast! How can it not be? Our long season of waiting and preparation culminates in the second biggest party of the year. (The first being Easter, of course!) The 12 days of Christmas ends on the Eve of the Epiphany (January 5), so let's keep celebrating the Good News that Jesus has come and is coming again! The colors for Christmas are gold and white, symbolizing the grandeur, glory and majesty of Christ, as well as the joy we have in him.

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### ***In need of prayer?***

*Please reach out to the pastors, staff and leaders of the church. We are here for you.  
Email: [help@gracepasadena.org](mailto:help@gracepasadena.org)*