

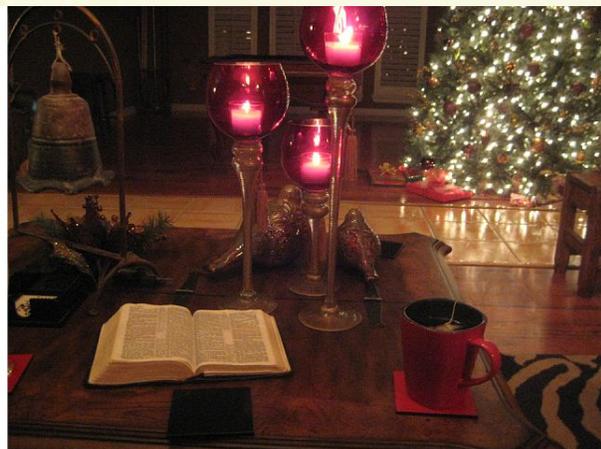


# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

## KCPC This Week

*"Knowing the love of Christ together with all the saints." - Eph. 3:18-19*

Week Ending, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014



### Upcoming Events- Lord willing!

**Prepare for Worship!:** Your pastors and elders encourage you to spend time in prayer each Saturday evening, preparing your hearts and praying for the worship of our God. Please remember the importance of prayer for our worship services, and especially the need for the Spirit's work in preaching. *Pray for the power of the Spirit in preaching and teaching (1 Thess. 1:5).*

**Deacons' Offering:** We have the wonderful opportunity and privilege of participating in the grace of giving (2 Cor. 8-9) by giving to the deacon's offering this Lord's Day to provide for the needy in our congregation and community. May our generosity overflow to many so that they will be thankful to God! (Read and pray 2 Cor. 9:8-11).

**Locust Street Film Night:** Friday evening, **December 12<sup>th</sup>** at 7 pm. We will be viewing and discussing Vincent Minelli's glorious Technicolor classic musical *'Meet Me in St. Louis'* with Judy Garland!

### Congregational Family Meeting this Lord's Day:

This Lord's Day during our Sunday School time, your pastors and elders look forward to having a time of informal fellowship and discussion as a congregation. This time is designed to allow you to bring concerns, ask questions, seek wisdom, encourage your prayers and fellowship together, etc. Please make every effort to attend this meeting at 9:30 am.

**KCPC Booktable Sale!** Take advantage of the wonderful books on the KCPC book table and reduce the price of the books you would like to purchase by 20% for a limited time. Consider getting some of your holiday gifts in this way—these books are hand-picked and recommended highly by your pastors! **Note two fine books:** Sinclair Ferguson's *'How God Got the World Ready for Jesus'* (children's book) and *'Songs of the Nativity'* by John Calvin.

**Men's and Boy's Breakfast:** Saturday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-10 am.

**"The Awe and Joy of Christmas":** Our sermon series for Advent and Christmas will begin this week from Matthew's Gospel. **Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit in the preaching!** Please take time to **invite your friends and neighbors to experience this special series and worship the LORD with us.** Three sermons: 1. The Story of Jesus (Matt. 1:1-17); 2. The Birth of Jesus (Matt. 1:18-25); 3. The Significance of Jesus (Matt. 2:1-12).

**Christmas Caroling!** Caroling in our neighborhood on Sunday evening, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Christmas Eve worship with Potomac Hills PCA in Leesburg**—Make plans to attend!

**Women's Bible Study:** The study meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday nights at 7pm. All women are welcome to attend. Contact Stacy Halley for more information.

*"But will God indeed dwell with man on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house that I have built!"*

*ESV* **2 Chronicles 6:18**

## *From Your Pastors*

### *Beholding the Glory of Christ at Christmas—What Did Simeon See?*

*“Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, <sup>29</sup> “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” - <sup>ESV</sup>*

**Luke 2:25-32**

Our forefather Simeon lived at the first light of the dawn of the last days. The light had dawned with the coming of Jesus in his incarnation, but Simeon had not beheld the beautiful glory of the Son until his mother and father brought him into the temple to be circumcised (Luke 2:27). Although Simeon had believed God’s promises and had lived righteously in the strength of them, he had yet to behold the glory of God in the face of Jesus as he would.

Simeon was a righteous and devout man, full of faith, who eagerly anticipated the fulfillment of God’s promises. He went by the Spirit’s guidance into the temple one morning, and on that special day he beheld the unfathomable love of God the Father, the wonderful Savior of the world, the light to the Gentiles, the glory of Israel, and the embodiment and realization of all of God’s promises (Luke 2:25–32). Simeon beheld the light of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 4:6). He rejoiced, saying, *“My eyes have seen your salvation!”* (Luke 2:30).

Simeon saw a child who would have looked like any other—nothing extraordinary to outward appearances. There was no glow, no halo around baby Jesus’ holy head. He was clothed in our humanity, in the likeness of sinful flesh, born in the likeness of men, and the glory that he had enjoyed as the eternal Son before the foundation of the world was cloaked (Isa. 53:2; John 17:5; Rom. 8:3; Phil. 2:7). As Charles Wesley superbly wrote: *“Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see, Hail! the Incarnate Deity!”*

But Simeon saw something special because the Holy Spirit showed it to him by giving him eyes of faith (as emphasized in Luke 2:25, 26, 27). We are told specifically that Simeon *“came in the Spirit into the temple”* (2:27). Simeon then received into his arms his blessed Savior-King (2:28), the very revelation of God’s salvation to sinners.

It is similar with us today. The Holy Spirit is still leading believers to behold the glory of Jesus. In order to behold who Christ is, and what this means for us, the Holy Spirit must make our dead hearts alive (Eph. 2:1–5). We need to be enabled to behold him with eyes of faith, having the eyes of our hearts enlightened by the power and grace of God (Eph. 1:17–19; 2 Cor. 4:6).

At Christmas, ponder the significance of the birth of Jesus. What do you see when you look thoughtfully into the manger? Do you see just a child, merely a baby, or do you see the living God in human flesh to live and die for sinners, to be raised for our vindication and righteous declaration before a holy God, to ascend to God’s right hand as the King of kings and Lord of lords? (Rom. 1:3-4; 1 Tim. 3:16). If you see this, then it is God who has worked in your life, and you are an heir of all his wonderful “Yes” promises in Christ! (2 Cor. 1:20). Can you rejoice that even though your physical eyes may be dimmed by sin’s doubts, and you may grow weary as a pilgrim on the way, your eyes of faith can still see and can still be strengthened as you gaze upon your glorious King? Take a moment right now to pray that you see Him who is “Fullness of Grace and Deity” more clearly? (Eph. 1:18; John 1:16; Col. 2:9).

To be continued next week...

*...in Christ's Love,*

**Pastors Biggs and Halley**

*“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.”*

<sup>ESV</sup> **Revelation 21:3**

# THIS LORD'S DAY

**Sermon Title: "The Story of Jesus"**

– Pastor Charles R. Biggs

**Scripture Lesson:** Genesis 12:1-3; 2 Samuel 7:12-15

**Scripture Text:** Matthew 1:1-17

**Theme of Worship Service:** With the coming of Jesus Christ into this world in the incarnation, God's ongoing story of redemption begins a new and final chapter full of awe and joy!

## Questions to Discuss with Family and in Fellowship:

- \* **Children: Read Matthew 1:1-17.** How do you know that the opening of Matthew's Gospel is a story already in progress? Note the continuity between the old and the new; note the discontinuity between the old and new. What sticks out as important to you?
- \* Why do you think there are fourteen generations listed three times (1:17)? Is there any special significance?
- \* How does this genealogy reveal a theological purpose and focus? How does this genealogy particularly give you hope as a sinner? How is God's grace to you in Christ revealed?

## Hymns

1. Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence- 193

2. Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus- 196

3. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel- 194

*"Christ by highest heav'n adored/ Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come/ Offspring of a Virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see/ Hail the incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with man to dwell/ Jesus, our Emmanuel"*

– C. Wesley

*"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel"*

*ESV* **Matthew 1:23**