



# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

## KCPC This Week

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

**Week Ending, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015**



**CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS**

### **Upcoming Events- Lord willing!**

**Prepare for Worship!:** We encourage you to spend time in prayer each Saturday evening, preparing your hearts and praying for the worship of our God. Pray for the Holy Spirit's blessing!

**Coming in 2016: Sunday School:** *"Knowing Christ"* in early 2016. **Morning Sermon Series:** *"Acts of the Risen Lord Jesus"* beginning (D.V.) in January.

**Sunday School Classes for Christmastime:** We will give our teachers a break from teaching Sunday school from **December through Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

**Christmas Eve Worship with Potomac Hills**

**PCA:** Join us for our 5<sup>th</sup> year of combined worship on Christmas Eve with our sister congregation in the PCA. *"Come, let us adore Him..."* Watch your emails for details/directions.

**Special Locust Street Film Night this Friday, Dec. 18 at 6 pm!** LSFN is thankful to announce our special guest host this week: Mr. Rick Weitz who will be presenting a special Christmas film *"To Be or Not To Be"* to view and discuss. Details: <https://www.facebook.com/LSFilmNight/>

**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 Christmas gifts in this way. These books are hand-picked and recommended highly by your pastor!

### **KCPC Online:**

[www.sermonaudio.com/kcpc](http://www.sermonaudio.com/kcpc)  
[www.ketocin.org/resources](http://www.ketocin.org/resources)

**December Fellowship Meal!** We will enjoy a Christmas celebration and fellowship meal on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Let us encourage one another with growth in our communion with God through Christ, our "Immanuel".

**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 Margaret Biggs for more information: [missmargaretbiggs@comcast.net](mailto:missmargaretbiggs@comcast.net)

**2016 Winter-Spring Sunday School Kick-Off on January 10:** KCPC will have a special Sunday school kick-off with some of our children and their teachers sharing with us what they are learning.

*"Not once had [Mary] thought she might one day be the mother of God's Son. She was a mere girl, poorly connected and despised by the world. She had no worth or distinction except her fear of God."*

**- John Calvin**



## *From Your Pastor*

### *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.' "* - *ESV* **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). We need to pray for further enlightening as Christians (Eph. 3:14–21; 2 Cor. 3:18).

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? Wont' you take a moment right now to pray that you will see Him who is "Fullness of Grace and Deity" more clearly (Eph. 1:18; John 1:16; Col. 2:9)?

**In Christ's love,  
Pastor Biggs**

*"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"  
– Charles Wesley*



# THIS LORD'S DAY

**Sermon Title: “*In a Manger*”**

- Pastor Charles R. Biggs

**Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 9:6-7; Micah 5:2, 4-5a, Luke 1:46-50**

**Scripture Text: Luke 2:1-20**

**Thoughts and Meditations for Preparing Your Heart and Family for Worship:**

- \* **Children:** Read Luke 2:17. How was Joseph and Mary's trip and visit to Bethlehem inconvenient and challenging to their faith? What was their hope in this time? What is your hope?
- \* How does God focus you, or center you on your true and only real hope in this world?
- \* How does the Word of God, particularly preaching play a large part in the birth narrative of Jesus? What does this teach you?
- \* How many contrasts do you find in Luke 2:1-20. Carefully, slowly, meditatively, prayerfully think about this.

## Hymns

**1. Angels We Have Heard On High #214**

**2. Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor #230**

**3. All My Heart This Night Rejoices #217**

*“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

**- Isaiah 9:6**