



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending, December 3rd,
2016



Upcoming Events—Lord willing!

Prepare for Worship: Your pastor and elders encourage you to spend time in prayer each Saturday evening, preparing your hearts for the Lord's Day, and praying for the worship of our God. Pray for the Holy Spirit's blessing on the preaching of the Word and our fellowship!

Women's Bible Studies: Evening study meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday nights at 7pm, studying the Book of Daniel. For more information contact Margaret Biggs at missmargaretbiggs@comcast.net. Daytime study meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 1-3, studying *A Woman's Wisdom: How the Book of Proverbs Speaks to Everything*. Contact Joanie Leake for more information at J2Leake@gmail.com. All women are invited to attend either or both!

Deacon's Fund this Lord's Day: Please prayerfully consider how you might give to our deacon's fund that will be taken up during morning worship this Lord's Day to help those in need.

Prayer Meeting this Lord's Day at 6 pm: Come join us for congregational prayer to close this Lord's Day followed by a time of fellowship and feasting. Remember also at 5 pm is Question and Answer time with Pastor Biggs. Come early at 5 with your questions about the Bible.

Sunday School Classes—Christmas Break: Sunday school teachers will be taking a break from December 11th to January 8th. Sunday school classes for winter will resume on Lord's Day, January 15th, 2017.

Locust Street Film Night: Friday evening, December 9th, dinner at 6 pm, and film at 7 pm. We will be viewing and discussing the classic adaptation of Dickens' classic *'A Christmas Carol'*. Alistair Sim stars as "Scrooge" in this fantastic classic British film (1951).

Congregational Family Meeting: Lord's Day, December 11th during normal Sunday school hours. Your pastor and elders will be briefly updating you on the exciting work of the Spirit in our congregation and welcoming your questions and concerns.

Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 10th in Purcellville: Come join us for the Purcellville Christmas Parade, inviting our neighbors to join us for worship! For more information, contact Elder Rick Weitz.

Christmas Fellowship and Caroling, Lord's Day evening, Dec. 18th: Our Christmas fellowship will be at 5:30 pm at the church building followed at 6:30 by caroling in our neighborhood! Come join us for the feasting and fun!

Christmas Eve with Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve: Join us Christmas Eve from 5-6:30 pm at Potomac Hills PCA in Leesburg for combined worship service.

"For nothing will be impossible with God."

- Luke 1:37

From Your Pastor

Magnifying and Rejoicing in Christ at Christmas

Read Luke 1:26-55

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior..." (Luke 1:46-47)

Mary rejoiced in God her Savior because of Christ. We can too! What are specific ways to do this as a congregation during this Advent and Christmastide?

1. Let us know God our Savior in Jesus Christ (1:30-35) *"...He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."*

God is for us and with us in Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:31-32). There is no saving knowledge of God outside of Jesus Christ. Salvation is an amazing work of God the Father for sinners through the incarnation of Christ by the Holy Spirit (1:31-33, 35, 37). Jesus is Mary's great son, Son of the Most High God, and the Eternal King of David's line come to save sinners. Jesus Christ is both God and man. Though truly born of Mary's substance through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus is God in the flesh, the heir to David's throne, the King of kings and Lord of Lords! Let us bow to Him as our Lord!

2. Let us know our humble estate before Him (1:48) *"...He has looked on the humble estate of his servant..."*

Our salvation is all of grace, let us humble ourselves before Him. What can we boast of regarding our salvation? It is all because of God's magnificent mercy and glorious grace to us in Christ (Eph. 2:4)! When we were neither seeking after God, nor desiring to please Him, when we were at enmity with Him as sworn enemies, God looked upon the rebellious world in pity and sent Christ in the fullness of the times to save sinners (John 3:16-17; Rom. 3:9ff; 5:6-8; 8:7-8; Gal. 4:4). As sinners we have nothing to offer God, so we must only receive and believe (Isa. 55:1-3, 6-7; Matt. 11:28-29; John 3:18, 36). Let us say with Mary by faith: *"Behold, I am the servant of the LORD; Let it be to me according to your word"* (Luke 1:38).

3. Let us know to fear Him (1:50) *"And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation."*

God's mercy is for those who truly love and fear Him. To fear God means that we desire to show our love through obedience to His Word, through devotion as we offer Him our hearts and worship, and through humble service as we daily give ourselves to Him in Christ (Gen. 22:12; Job 28:28; Psa. 19:9; 110:11; Eccl. 12:13; Isa. 33:6; Mal. 1:6; 2:5; 4:2; Acts 9:31; 2 Cor. 7:1).

4. Let us know His strength in our weakness and His opposition to pride (1:51-53) *"He has shown strength...He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate..."*

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6). God is not impressed, nor does He take pleasure in our strengths and proud positions, but rather He takes delight in those who fear him and hope in His steadfast love (Psa. 147:11). God calls the weak things in the world to shame the strong (1 Cor. 1:27), and hates pride and arrogance (Prov. 8:13; Amos 6:8), so let us boast of our strength in Christ that is made perfect in our weaknesses (2 Cor. 12:9-10).

5. Let us know that His promises are for us as Abraham's children in Christ (1:54-55) *"He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."*

All of God's promises made throughout redemptive-history are received by faith and ultimately realized in Christ. All of God's promises are "Yes" in Christ (2 Cor. 1:20). Gospel promises were made to Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:15)...and to us.; to Abraham (Gen. 12:2-3)...and to us; to Israel...and to us (Gal. 3:16, 26-29). Believers are the true Israel of God (Gal. 6:16).

MAGNIFY GOD...AND REJOICE!!

In Christ's love,
Pastor Biggs

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God."

— **Luke 1:35**

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon:

“The Christmas Story”

- Pastor Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: Luke 1:26-35, 67-79

Scripture Text: Matthew 1:1-17

Theme of Sermon/Worship: God tells His family's story through covenant promise over many generations.

Questions for family worship and/or devotion to prepare hearts for worship or to review sermon

- **Children: Read Matthew's Genealogy in Matthew 1:1-17.** What is the purpose of Matthew's beginning his Gospel with this? List three important truths that this genealogy teaches you about God and His Christ.
- How does the genealogy both set up in preparation and teach the substance of the Christmas story?
- **Read and memorize as a family** (or refresh your memory) Shorter Catechism, question and answer 21: *“Who is the only Redeemer of God's elect?”*

Hymns

1. God of Our Fathers, 710
2. Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies, 398
3. O Christ, Our Hope, Our Heart's Desire, 161

*“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

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”

– **Romans 15:13**