



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC This Week

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

Week Ending December 23, 2017



THIS COMING LORD'S DAY DECEMBER 24

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!

Morning worship 10:30am. Come at 10am for fellowship beforehand!

Sunday school will be taking a break until January 14th. Beginning Jan. 14th, our adult Sunday school will have the privilege of a series on Christ's gift of the Diaconate to His church, its nature and ministry, taught by our beloved deacons, Pat Whitmore and Mark Miller. Later in the winter, Pastor Biggs will be teaching a short mini-series on the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service KCPC will have no evening worship this Sunday, however we are welcome to worship at **Bethel Presbyterian Church's 6pm** service, at 19856 Evergreen Mills Rd, Leesburg, VA 20175.

On Lord's Day, December 31 in the morning service KCPC has the privilege of welcoming Pastor Stu Jones into our pulpit.

Our sermon series on the Books of Samuel will resume on Lord's Day, January 7.

Prayer Meeting: There will be a corporate congregational prayer meeting in the evening of January 7 at 6 pm.

2018: KCPC 15th Anniversary!

Congregational Memory Verse for 2018:

2 Peter 1:5-8: For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Pastor/Elder Family Visitation: Your pastor and elders will be seeking to schedule in-home family visits for pastoral care and prayer over the next several months. Let us know at any time how we can best serve you as your shepherd-elders.

Women's Bible Studies: The daytime study meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays 12:30-2:30pm, studying the book of Ruth with Paul Miller's interactive study *A Loving Life*. Contact Joanie Leake at j2leake@gmail.com for details. The new evening study will begin January 16th, studying Ecclesiastes using Zack Eswine's book *Recovering Eden*. For more information, contact Margaret Biggs at missmargaretbiggs@comcast.net.

"Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;/ Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign./ In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed/ The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ./ What can I give Him, poor as I am?/ If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb./ If I were a wise man, I would do my part./ Yet what I can, I give Him: give my heart"
- Christina Georgina Rossetti, 'In the Bleak Midwinter'

A Biblical Theology of the Incarnation
“Immanuel: God with Us” – Part 2
Pastor Charles R. Biggs

* ***“God with us” in the Old Testament: Immanuel Theophanies and Christophanies*** – In the Old Covenant, God granted a “prelude” to the Incarnation (J. Calvin) in making temporary appearances in human form in the Old Covenant to be ***God with us***. God the Son appeared as the “Angel/Messenger of YHWH” to Abraham (Gen. 18), Moses (Exodus 3), and Gideon and Manoah (Judges 6, 13). Throughout Israel’s pilgrimage in the wilderness, the Angel of the LORD led them, fed them, blessed them, and mediated for them before God (Num. 22; Judges 2:1; cf. 1 Cor. 10:1-4). These appearances were temporary, not permanent as the Incarnation would be. Yet God prepared Israel through prophetic promise for One who would be a faithful Israelite, who would be obedient unto death as God’s faithful servant, but who would also be the LORD Himself (Isaiah 42, 49, 52-53; Zech. 9:9ff; 12:13-13:1; cf. Matt. 1:1-18, 23).

* ***Son of David: Messiah, “Anointed King” (2 Sam. 7:12-17)*** – God prepared Israel through a promise of a “Messiah” or “Anointed King” from David’s offspring, who would also be the Son of Man and the LORD of glory (2 Sam. 7:12ff). *“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever...”* (Psalm 45, 110); *“For unto us a child is born; unto us a Son is given...”* (Isaiah 9:6-7); *“...One like a Son of man...”* (Daniel 7:13-14; cf. Hebrews 1). True Israel awaited this “visitation” of God in the flesh, the One who would be her Consolation, and her Great Davidic King as ***God with us*** (Luke 1:31-35, 68; 2:25; 7:16).

* ***“The Mystery of Godliness” (1 Tim. 3:16) – Revealed, yet concealed.*** The mystery of godliness is revealed in the fullness of the times (Gal. 4:4), when God the Son was united permanently to our human nature in the womb of the virgin (Luke 1:31-35); He was “born of a woman, born under law, to redeem...” (Gal. 4:4-6). Although God the Son had appeared occasionally and temporarily, now God would come permanently in the flesh *“...And the Word was made flesh and dwelt in our midst...”* (John 1:1-3, 14). All of the Old Testament is about Jesus Christ, His life, death, resurrection and ascension. All of the Old Testament revealed *“...things concerning Himself [Jesus Christ]”* (Luke 24:25-27; John 5:39). Though this had been *“kept secret...[it has now] been made known...”* (Romans 16:25-27). This teaches us that God is revealed and at the same time, He is hidden to a certain degree. God chose to make Himself progressively known throughout redemptive history. The “mystery” is that it was revealed in the Old Covenant, but not as clearly understood as it would be when Christ Jesus would come to make full sense of it all by His Spirit as ***God with us*** (*“In the Old concealed, in the New revealed...,”* Augustine).

* ***Creation Restored (Rev. 21-22) – God dwells with Man as Glorified Man forever and ever.*** The Son of God became flesh to live perfectly on our behalf, to die in our place for our sins, to be raised for our vindication, and to be exalted as Prophet, Priest, and King at God’s right hand! Through Jesus’ perfect and completed work, the restoration of all things has begun by His Spirit. Though now we suffer in and with Him, we shall be glorified in and with Him, too! (Rom. 6:1-11; 8:29). This glorious appearing we await with patience and eagerness, living holy lives for Him in service to God and one another! Rejoice, the LORD is come!! (Tit. 2:11-14). ***He will be God with us forever!!***

* Please see Graham Coles’ excellent book [‘The God Who became Human’](#) for many more biblical-theological insights! (IVP, 2013).

***“How silently, how silently,/ The wondrous gift is given!/
So God imparts to human hearts/ The blessings
of His heaven./ No ear may hear His coming;/
But in this world of sin,/ Where meek souls will receive
Him, still/ The dear Christ enters in...O come to us,
abide with us,/ Our Lord Immanuel.”***
– Phillips Brooks, ‘O Little Town of Bethlehem’

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon

“Spirit of Christmas Presence”

-Rev. Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 9:6-8; Matthew 1:21-23; John 1:1-14

Sermon Texts: Luke 1:26-37; Matthew 2:1-11

Theme of Sermon

Christmas Sermon Series:

*The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit and how He glorified the Father and the Son in the Incarnation.
Sermon 4: How the Holy Spirit graciously brings God the Father's most precious gift
to a broken and sinful world.*

Hymns

208 - O Come, All Ye Faithful

220 - From Heaven High I Come to You

226 - As With Gladness Men of Old

Questions for Meditation/Reflection

- **Children:** Read Isaiah 9:6-7; Matthew 1:21-23; John 1:1-18; Luke 1:26-37; Matthew 2:1-11. What are three important truths you learn about Jesus Christ? What are three important ways we can respond to these truths as persons, families, and a congregation? Do you know the Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q&A by memory?
- From last week's sermon, what can prevent us from being joyful? Why is joy something worth spiritually fighting for?! Are you fighting for it this week?
- When you read and meditate upon the angel's announcement to Mary in Luke 1:26-37 what is highlighted or illuminated for your heart by the Holy Spirit? Why?
- In what two ways do the Magi ultimately find Jesus Christ? How do they respond? What do you learn?

“And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.” – Matthew 2:11