

The Lord be with you.

As this season of Advent comes to a close, may the love of God the Father,
and the grace of Jesus the Son, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be and abide with us all.



Sunday, December 19, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Advent

“The Advent season is that time when we seek to, in a manner of speaking, mute our memory of what has already happened, that we might brighten our joy that it happened. We leave the already of His advent to taste the bitter of the not yet. We, in short, go back, that we might look forward to His coming.”

~ R. C. Sproul

We cross the threshold of the secular to the Sacred, from the common to the Uncommon, from the profane to the Holy.

Our Savior is born! Come, let us adore Him!

Drawing of Manger on the front of today's bulletin is by Hannah Ryan.

Order of Worship Service

Let us prepare our hearts for worship!

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship: **Psalm 137**

Corporate Confession: Congregation **Stands** Responsive Reading

Elder: "If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."

1 John 1:6-7

Congregation: "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

1 John 1:8-9

Declaration of Forgiveness: **Elder & Congregation**

"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved"

Ephesians 2:4-5

Congregation **Seated**

Offertory Scripture: **Psalm 116:12 & 14** Prayer

Shepherd's Rock Bible Church

Sunday, December 19, 2021 Fourth Sunday of Advent

The word advent simply means coming. The Advent season, sometimes called simply Advent, refers to the time that leads up to the coming of Christ at Christmas. The church has traditionally set aside the four Sundays before Christmas as the season of Advent. Sometimes people use Advent Wreaths and candles in the celebration.

“In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 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. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” 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!”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.”

Luke 2:1-20

“In the Christmas story God descends to reascend. He comes down; down from the heights of absolute being into time and space, down into humanity; down further **still**, if embryologists are right, to recapitulate in the womb ancient and pre-human phases of life; down to **the very roots and seabed** of the Nature He has created. But He goes **down** to come up again and bring the whole ruined world with Him. One has the picture of a strong man stooping lower and lower to get himself underneath some great **complicated** burden. He must stoop in order to lift, he must **almost disappear** under the load **before** he incredibly straightens his back and marches off with the whole mass swaying on his shoulders.”

~ C. S. Lewis

“How shall I describe this Birth to you? For this wonder fills me with astonishment. The Ancient of days has become an infant. He who sits upon the sublime and heavenly Throne, now lies in a manger. And He who cannot be touched, who is simple, **without** complexity, and incorporeal, now lies subject to the hands of men. He who has **broken** the bonds of sinners, is now bound by an infant’s bands. But He has decreed that ignominy shall become honor, infamy be clothed with glory, and total humiliation **the** measure of His Goodness.

For this He assumed my body, that I may become capable of His Word; taking my **flesh**, He gives me His spirit; and so He bestowing and I receiving, He prepares for me **the** treasure of Life. He takes my flesh, to sanctify me; He gives me His Spirit, that He **may** save me.

Come, then, let us observe the Feast. Truly wondrous is the whole chronicle of the Nativity. For this day the ancient slavery is ended, the devil confounded, the demons **take** to flight, the power of death is broken, paradise is unlocked, the curse is taken away, sin is removed from us, error driven out, truth has been brought back.”

~ John Chrysostom

Prayer

Merciful and most loving God, by whose will and bountiful gift Jesus Christ our Lord humbled Himself that He might exalt humankind; and became flesh that He might restore us in the most celestial image; and was born of the virgin that He might uplift the lowly; grant us the inheritance of the meek, perfect in us Your likeness, and bring us at the last to rejoice in beholding Your beauty, and with all Your saints to glory in Your grace; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

~ Gallican Sacramentary (8th Century)

Sermon Text: **John 11:1-6 The Tarrying Savior**

Communion

Benediction

Pastor: Joshua Banks
Elder: Jason Francis
Elder: Barney Barnett

Uses NASB Version of The Holy Bible
423-930-3540
423-747-9442

Deacons: Shawn Faxon
Dave Ramey

Joe Graves
Josh Tidwell

Sunday School Classes:

Children (ages up to 11) Brandy Puckett
Youth (ages 12 and up) Barney Barnett
Adults Todd Hensley & Paul Elliott

Bible Studies:

Men's Bible Study Paul Elliott
Women's Bible Study Amanda Banks

The King of Glory Psalm 24

A Psalm of David.

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness
thereof,

the world and those who dwell therein,

2 for he has founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.

3 Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?

4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully.

5 He will receive blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of his h

salvation.

6 Such is the generation of those who seek
him,

who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Selah

7 Lift up your heads, O gates!

And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

8 Who is this King of glory?

The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle!

9 Lift up your heads, O gates!

And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

10 Who is this King of glory?

The LORD of hosts,

he is the King of glory! **Selah**

Sermon Notes

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;