Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Morning Worship Service:

Pastor Doug Warren December 25th, 2022

Psalm 34:18-22

Our Immanent God

How Does Messiah Sing This Song of Praise?

God Has Drawn Near to Us to Save Us (18).

Jesus the Righteous One, Came as Promised (19-20).

Jesus Was Condemned to Death to Give Us Life (21-22).

Re-read (sing) with This Christ-Centered Understanding.

Application—Celebrate Our Life in Christ with Joy!

CONCLUSION: This Christmas as we celebrate the good news that the God of the Universe has drawn near to us, do you truly know His immanence? Not just do you feel His proximity, but do you know with *the confidence of supernatural faith* that the Lord is near to you in all your brokenness? Do you know that "there is now therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" and that that includes you? Do we as a congregation understand our nearness to God through Christ in ways that free us to radically love others with the outrageous love Jesus has lavished on us? May the Holy Spirit continue His work in assuring us of our security in Christ so that we may!

Psalm 34:18-22 ESV

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken.

Affliction will slay the wicked,

and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

The Lord redeems the life of his servants:

none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

What Child Is This?

1 What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, Good Christians, fear, for sinners here while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

1 God rest you merry, gentlemen Let nothing you dismay Remember Christ our Savior Was born on Christmas Day To save us all from Satan's pow'r When we were gone astray

3 Fear not then said the angel Let nothing you affright This day is born a Savior Of a pure virgin bright To free all those who trust in Him From Satan's pow'r and might

2 Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? the silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you; hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him; the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby; joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

Refrain

O tidings of comfort & joy Comfort and joy O tidings of comfort & joy 2 From God our heav'nly Father A blessed angel came And unto certain shepherds Brought tidings of the same How that in Bethlehem was born The Son of God by name

4 The shepherds at those tidings Rejoiced much in mind And left their flocks a-feeding In tempest storm and wind And went to Bethlehem straightway The Son of God to find

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

1 Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing,

3.No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found,

2 Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the sounding joy,

4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love,