

Welcome, Announcements, & Silent Prayer

*Call to Worship | Luke 2:8-14

Pastor: 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,

People: "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."

Pastor: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

People: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

*The Lord's Greeting | Romans 1:7

To all those...who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Prayer of Invocation

*Hymn 211 | God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

Call to Confession | Matthew 1:18-25

Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father, we confess that we have inherited a guilty record and a corrupt nature from our first father Adam. We were conceived in sin and brought forth in iniquity. Both our original sin and our actual sin have caused us to be separated from your loving presence. We confess that we deserve your just wrath for our failure at every moment to love you with the whole of our hearts. But we praise you that in the fullness of time you sent your Son into the world to be conceived in the womb of a virgin by the Holy Spirit as the sinless second Adam. Grow our faith in Jesus Christ so that through Him we might be increasingly freed from the guilt and corruption of our sin and thereby enjoy expanding communion with you in love. In Christ's name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon | Romans 5:17

For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Confession of Faith | Heidelberg Catechism 35 & 36

Q. 35. What is the meaning of these words— "He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary"?

A. That God's eternal Son, who is, and continueth true and eternal God, took upon Him the very nature of man, of the flesh and blood of the Virgin Mary, by the operation of the Holy Ghost; that He might also be the true seed of David, like unto His brethren in all things, sin excepted.

Q. 36. What profit dost thou receive by Christ's holy conception and nativity?

A. That He is our Mediator, and with His innocence and perfect holiness, covers in the sight of God, my sins, wherein I was conceived and brought forth.

*New Songs 6 | In Christ Alone

Congregational Prayer

Tithes and Offerings [Venmo: @Cornerstone-OPC]

Hymn 216 | Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Prayer of Dedication

Preaching of the Word

Scripture Reading | Isaiah 7:1-25

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Exposition | A Gospel Worth Believing

Prayer of Application

*Hymn 194 | O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Benediction

*Hymn 735 | Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

*Denotes congregation to stand, as able.

A GOSPEL WORTH BELIEVING

Isaiah 7:1-25

I. In spite of God's promise, Ahaz is faithless (vv. 1-12).

II. In spite of Ahaz's pride, God is faithful (vv. 13-25).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. What is the crisis that Judah is facing in this chapter?
2. Where should Ahaz be turning for deliverance in the face of this threat? Where does he actually turn?
3. Why does God command Ahaz to ask for a sign? What do we learn about Ahaz from his disobedience to God's command?
4. God tells Ahaz that He is going to give a sign to Judah, nonetheless. What is the sign?
5. Why is the sign ultimately bad news for Ahaz though it is ultimately good news for Judah?
6. A non-miraculous gospel might be easier to believe, but why is such a gospel not worthy of our attention or belief?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Meditate on God's words to Ahaz in v. 9b. What is God saying to me about the centrality of faith in His promise through this text? Do I possess such faith?
2. Do I tend to struggle with the supernatural nature of the gospel? Why, or why not?
3. Why can't the gospel be of a purely natural composition? Why is it vain to look for salvation in man, either myself or others?

Lord's Day Worship

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"The virgin birth is posted on guard at the door of the mystery of Christmas; and none of us must think of hurrying past it. It stands on the threshold of the New Testament, blatantly supernatural, defying our rationalism, informing us that all that follows belongs to the same order as itself and that if we find it offensive there is no point in proceeding further."

—Donald Macleod

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