



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
AT CASTLEWOODS

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 20th, 2020

MORNING WORSHIP

Thomas Winn — Elder/Pastor

The Prelude	Prepare your heart for worship
The Call to Worship	Chris Kimbrell
Baptist Hymnal No. 88	"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
The Prayer of Confession and Praise	Cody Wallace
Baptist Hymnal No. 100	"Angels We Have Heard on High"
Baptist Hymnal No. 85	"The First Noel"
The Reading of the Word — <i>Isaiah 7:1-17</i>	Hal Pritchard
Baptist Hymnal No. 103	"Away in a Manger"
The Pastoral Prayer	Pastor Winn
The Sermon — "Born To Die" (<i>Mark 15:35-41</i>)	Pastor Winn
A Time of Reflection Upon the Word Preached	
Baptist Hymnal No. 87	"Joy to the World"
The Benediction	Hal Pritchard
The Postlude	

EVENING WORSHIP

Scripture
&
Carol
S E R V I C E



COMMENTARY

R.C. Sproul

Elijah, one of the most well known of all the Hebrew prophets, did not die a physical death. Rather, God took him directly to heaven via a whirlwind (2 Kings 2:1–14). That event, plus Elijah’s notoriety and miracles such as his calling down fire from heaven (1 Kings 18:20–40), led to much speculation. By the first century AD, many Jews believed Elijah would intervene in times of desperate need, descending from heaven to give supernatural assistance. Given such a belief, we find it unsurprising that some of the bystanders who watched Jesus hang on the cross believed He was crying out for Elijah’s help (Mark 15:35–36). Probably, they misheard Jesus’ cry of “Eloi, Eloi” as “Elijah, Elijah,” or simply thought He was trying to speak the prophet’s name as He suffered there. In any case, we know that Jesus was not crying for Elijah but was crying out as He bore the wrath of God against the sin of His people. In many respects, the crucifixion of Jesus was not unlike the crucifixion of others in the ancient world. The same processes of scourging and hanging on the cross were followed in every crucifixion. Mark reports two unusual aspects to Christ’s crucifixion, however. (Matt. 27:51–54 reports a third, an earthquake.) First, darkness fell over the land, signifying Jesus’ dying under the divine curse, as we have seen (v. 33). Second, we read in Mark 15:37–38 that the “curtain of the temple” was torn in two. Mark does not tell us whether this was the curtain separating the Holy of Holies from the

Holy Place or the curtain that separated the Court of the Women from the Court of Israel. No one could go past the former curtain into the Holy of Holies except the high priest, and then only once a year (Lev. 16). Only Jewish men could pass through the latter curtain into the Court of Israel; the women were excluded. There are good arguments for either possibility, but no matter which curtain was torn, the message is clear: Jesus’ death opens up access for people that was not possible for them before. Hebrews 10:19–22 makes it clear that this access is into the heavenly throne room. Apart from divine revelation, the darkness, the tearing of the temple curtain, and the earthquake that occurred when Jesus died could all be interpreted as mere coincidences. Most observers likely thought it was just another crucifixion. Yet, one man knew better. The centurion received insight into the death of our Lord, realizing by the manner of His death that He was the Son of God (Mark 15:39).

Coram Deo: Dr. R.C. Sproul says in His commentary Mark that the centurion was “the first to realize that something of cosmic significance was happening that afternoon outside Jerusalem.” The centurion was among those most unlikely to recognize Jesus and yet God revealed Christ to him. Let us be grateful that God’s grace extends even to those who seem the most unlikely to receive it.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Buddies and Bible Drill will be this afternoon at 4:45 pm and Children's Choir will meet at 5:30pm.



Senior Adult (50 & up) - December 21st, 6pm at the church
Sign up lists will be on the bulletin board



Our Christmas Mailbox is open again this year! There will be a basket in the hallway behind the sanctuary, across from the choir room, where you can put your Christmas cards for church members. In lieu of the postage you would've spent on mailing, you are encouraged to donate to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Please place on the memo of your check or designate on your Venmo payment *Lottie Moon*.



There will be *no prayer meeting* on December 23rd and December 30th.



The church will be hosting the Deep South Founders Conference January 21st-23rd, 2021. If you are able to help with hosting, please see Bro. Thomas. If you would like to register for the conference visit <https://deepsouthfounders.com/registration/>.

