



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
AT CASTLEWOODS

ORDER OF WORSHIP
December 25th, 2022

MORNING WORSHIP

- The Prelude Thomas Winn — Elder/Pastor Prepare your heart for worship
- The Call to Worship Chris Kimbrell
- Hymn "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"
- The Prayer of Confession and Praise Hal Pritchard
- Hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High"
- Hymn "The First Noel"
- The Reading of the Word — *Isaiah 9:1-7* Hal Pritchard
- Hymn "Once in Royal David's City"
- The Sermon — *"The Birth of Jesus" (Luke 2:1-10)* Pastor Winn
- A Time of Reflection Upon the Word Preached
- Hymn "O Come All Ye Faithful"
- The Benediction Hal Pritchard
- The Postlude

EVENING WORSHIP

No Evening Service



COMMENTARY

Dr. Albert Mohler

Christians must face the fact that a denial of the virgin birth is a denial of Jesus as the Christ. Now, even some revisionist evangelicals claim that belief in the virgin birth is unnecessary. The meaning of the miracle is enduring, they argue, but the historical truth of the doctrine is not important. Must one believe in the virgin birth to be a Christian? It is conceivable that someone might come to Christ and trust Christ as Savior without yet learning the Bible teaches that Jesus was born of a virgin. A new believer is not yet aware of the full structure of Christian truth. The real question is this: Can a Christian, once aware of the Bible's teaching, reject the virgin birth? The answer must be no.

Matthew tells us that before Mary and Joseph “came together,” Mary “was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit” Matt. 1:18. This, Matthew explains, fulfilled what Isaiah promised: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name ‘Immanuel,’ which translated means ‘God with Us’” (Matt. 1:23, Isaiah 9:6-7). Luke provides even greater detail, revealing Mary was visited by an angel who explained that she, though a virgin, would bear the divine child: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy child shall be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:35). Even if the virgin birth was taught by only one biblical passage, that would be sufficient to obligate all Christians to the belief. We have no right to weigh the truthfulness of biblical teachings by their repetition in Scripture. We cannot claim to believe the Bible is the Word of God and then turn around and cast suspicion on its teaching. Millard Erickson states this well: “If we do not hold to the virgin birth despite the fact that the Bible asserts it, then we have compromised the authority of the Bible and there is in principle no reason why we should hold to its other teachings. Thus, rejecting the virgin birth has implications

reaching far beyond the doctrine itself.” Implications, indeed. If Jesus was not born of a virgin, who was His father? There is no answer that will leave the Gospel intact. The virgin birth explains how Christ could be both God and man, how He was without sin, and that the entire work of salvation is God's gracious act. If Jesus was not born of a virgin, He had a human father. If Jesus was not born of a virgin, the Bible teaches a lie.

Carl F. H. Henry, the dean of evangelical theologians, argues that the virgin birth is the “essential, historical indication of the Incarnation, bearing not only an analogy to the divine and human natures of the Incarnate, but also bringing out the nature, purpose, and bearing of this work of God to salvation.” Well said, and well believed. The secularist editors of the nation's news magazines and newspapers may find belief in the virgin birth to be evidence of intellectual backwardness among American Christians. But this is the faith of the church, established in God's perfect Word, and cherished by the true church throughout the ages. Those who deny the virgin birth affirm other doctrines only by force of whim, for they have already surrendered the authority of Scripture. They have undermined Christ's nature and nullified the incarnation. Christians must face the fact that a denial of the virgin birth is a denial of Jesus as the Christ. The Savior who died for our sins was none other than the baby who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of a virgin. The virgin birth does not stand alone as a biblical doctrine, it is an irreducible part of the biblical revelation about the person and work of Jesus Christ. With it, the Gospel stands or falls. This much we know: All those who find salvation will be saved by the atoning work of Jesus the Christ, the virgin-born Savior. Anything less than this is just not Christianity, whatever it may call itself. A Christian will not deny the virgin birth.



RESPONSIBILITIES

Today's Nursery Volunteers

December 25th
<i>Morning</i> No Nursery Provided
<i>Evening/Afternoon</i> No Evening Service
<i>Wednesday - December 28th</i> No Prayer Meeting

Today's Sound Operator - Cody Wallace



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY PRAYER MEETING

We will not meet for prayer meeting December 28th.

CHRISTMAS MAILBOX

Our Christmas Mailbox will be open again this year! The basket will be in the back foyer of the sanctuary, across from the choir room. In lieu of the postage, 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*.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH NEW YEARS PARTY

The children and youth will have a party at the Kimbrell's on Wednesday, December 28th at 6:30 pm. Details to come.

DEEP SOUTH FOUNDERS CONFERENCE

We will once again be hosting the 16th annual Deep South Founders Conference January 26-28. Our topic this year is "The Assurance of Grace and Salvation". Our featured speakers this year are Geoff Thomas and Jeff Durbin. Make plans to attend and register at graceatcastlewoods.org or dsfc.ticketleap.com/dsfc-2023/.

Merry Christmas!

