



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
AT CASTLEWOODS

ORDER OF WORSHIP
December 26th, 2021

MORNING WORSHIP

Thomas Winn — Elder/Pastor

- The Prelude Prepare your heart for worship
- The Call to Worship Chris Kimbrell
- Hymn "Once in Royal David's City"
- The Prayer of Confession and Praise Cody Wallace
- Hymn "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"
- Hymn "The First Noel"
- The Reading of the Word — *Isaiah 9:1-7* Hal Pritchard
- Hymn "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"
- The Pastoral Prayer Pastor Winn
- The Sermon — *"He Shall Save His People, Pt. II" (Matthew 1:18-24)* Pastor Winn
- A Time of Reflection Upon the Word Preached
- Hymn "Go Tell it on the Mountain"
- The Benediction Pastor Winn
- The Postlude

EVENING WORSHIP

No Service



COMMENTARY

C. H Spurgeon

“He Shall be Great!” Luke 1:32

Strictly speaking, I suppose these words refer to the human nature of our Lord Jesus Christ, for it is as to his humanity that Christ was born of Mary. The context runs thus— “Behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.” The angel of the Lord thus spake concerning the manhood of “that holy thing” that should be born of the favoured virgin by the overshadowing of the power of the Highest. As to his divinity, we must speak concerning him in another style than this: but, as a man, he was born of the virgin, and it was said to her before his birth, “He shall be great.” The man Christ Jesus stooped very low. In his first estate he was not great; he was very little when he hung upon his mother’s breast. In his after estate he was not great; but despised, rejected, and crucified. Indeed, he was so poor that he had not where to lay his head; and he was so cast out by the tongues of men that they called him a “fellow,” mentioned him among drunken men and wine-bibbers, and even accused him of having a devil, and being mad. In the esteem of the great ones of the earth he was an ignorant Galilean of whom they said, “We know not whence he is.” His life binds up more fitly with the lowly annals of the poor than with the court-circular or whatever stood for that in Caesar’s day. In his own time his enemies could not find a word base enough to express their contempt of him. He was brought very low in his trial, condemnation, and suffering. Who thought him great when he was covered with bloody sweat, or when he was sold at the price of a slave, or when a guard came out against him with swords, and with lanterns, and with torches, as if he had been a thief? Who thought him great when they bound him and led him to the judgment-seat as a malefactor? or when the abjects smote him, blindfolded him, and spat in his face? or when he was scourged, led through the streets bearing his cross, and afterwards hung up between two thieves to die? Truly he was brought very low, and a sword pierced through his mother’s heart as she saw the sufferings of her holy Son. When she knew that he was dead, and buried in a borrowed tomb, she must have painfully pondered in her heart the words from heaven concerning him, and thought within herself, “The angel said he should be great, but who is made so vile as he? He said that he should be called the ‘Son of the Highest,’ but, lo! he is brought into the dust of death; and men seal his sepulchre, and cast out his name as evil.” Still, while I think that our text most fitly applies to the manhood of Christ in the first place, I rejoice to think that—

“He who on earth as man was known,
And bore our sins and pains,

Now, seated on th’ eternal throne,
The God of glory reigns.”

The very man who was despised and spat upon sits glorious on his Father’s throne. As man he is anointed “King of kings, and Lord of lords.” As man he has been lifted up from the lowest depths, and set in the greatest heights to reign for ever and ever. Peter and the apostles testified, “This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses, he being by the right hand of God exalted.” Stephen also said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.” While we believe that, and rejoice in it, we shall be wise never to dissociate the deity of Christ from his humanity, for they make up one person. I cannot help remarking that in the New Testament you find a disregard of all rigid distinction of the two natures in the person of our Lord when the Spirit speaks concerning him. The two natures are so thoroughly united in the person of Christ that the Holy Ghost does not speak of the Lord Jesus with theological exactness, like one who writes a creed, but he speaks as to men of understanding, who know and rejoice in the truth of the one indivisible person of the Mediator. For instance, we read in Scripture of “the blood of God”: Paul saith in Acts xx. 28, “Feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.” Now, strictly speaking, there can be no blood of God, and the expression looks like a confusion of the two natures; but this is intentional, that we may clearly see that the two natures are so joined together that the Holy Ghost does not stop to dissect and set out differences; but he says of the united person of our blessed Lord that which is strictly true either of his humanity or of his deity. He is called both “God, our Saviour,” and “the man Christ Jesus.” The combined natures of the man, the God, Christ Jesus our Lord, are one person; and all the acts of either nature may be ascribed to that one person. Hence I, for one, do not hesitate to sing such verses as these—

“He that distributes crowns and thrones,
Hangs on a tree, and bleeds and groans:
The Prince of Life resigns his breath;
The King of Glory bows to death.”
“Well might the sun in darkness hide,
And shut his glories in,
When God, the mighty Maker, died
For man, the creature’s sin.”
“See how the patient Jesus stands,
Insulted in his lowest case!
Sinners have bound the Almighty hands,
And spit in their Creator’s face.”



RESPONSIBILITIES

Today's Nursery Volunteers

December 26th
<i>Morning</i> Bethany Wallace & Wendy Winn
<i>Evening/Afternoon</i> No Service
<i>Wednesday - December 29th</i> No Prayer Meeting

Today's Sound Operator - Dirk de Waal



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Preschool and Children's Choir will meet not this afternoon.

SCRIPTURE AND CAROL SERVICE

Our Scripture and Carol Service will be tonight at 6 pm.

SCHEDULE REMINDERS

We will not meet for prayer meeting this Wednesday, December 22nd. Also, there will be no evening service on next Sunday, December 26th.

LOTTIE MOON OFFERING

Each year at this time the Lottie Moon Offering is received. All money received through this offering goes directly to foreign missions. You can go here: <https://www.imb.org/generosity/lottie-moon-christmas-offering/> to learn more about the Lottie Moon Offering. Please make this a matter of prayer and support our foreign missionaries. Put on your check memo: Lottie Moon Offering.

CHRISTMAS CARD POST OFFICE

In lieu of purchasing stamps to mail your Christmas cards to the congregation, we ask for you to make a donation to Lottie Moon (please specify on your check memo!) and we'll hand them out for you. Please place your Christmas cards in the basket across from the choir room in the sanctuary hallway.

