



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
AT CASTLEWOODS

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 6th, 2020

MORNING WORSHIP

Thomas Winn — Elder/Pastor

- The Prelude Prepare your heart for worship
- The Call to Worship Chris Kimbrell
- Trinity Hymnal No. 149 "Joy to the World"
- The Prayer of Confession and Praise Hal Pritchard
- Trinity Hymnal No. 639 "Once in Royal David's City"
- Trinity Hymnal No. 641 "Away in a Manger"
- The Reading of the Word — *James 5:13-20* Hal Pritchard
- Trinity Hymnal No. 145 "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"
- The Sermon — "Mt. Carmel" (*1 Kings 18*) Ben Rogers
- Observance of The Lord's Supper
- Trinity Hymnal No. 164 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"
- The Benediction Hal Pritchard
- The Postlude

AFTERNOON WORSHIP

- The Prelude Prepare your heart for worship
- Baptist Hymnal No. 93 "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"
- Baptist Hymnal No. 86 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"
- The Pastoral Prayer Pastor Winn
- The Sermon — "Ezekiel's Passover" (*Ezekiel 9*) Hal Pritchard
- A Time of Reflection Upon the Word Preached
- Baptist Hymnal No. 91 "Silent Night"
- The Benediction Pastor Winn
- The Postlude



COMMENTARY

R. C. Sproul

No look at Elijah's life would be complete without a consideration of the most memorable event of his ministry—his confrontation with the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. In this episode we see the courage that the office of prophet required as well as the might of the Lord who sent the prophets to Israel. The context for this event is the syncretistic worship of the old covenant community. King Ahab ruled about 150 years after David, and by that time, the northern kingdom of Israel was practicing the very evil that the Israelites were supposed to have driven out of the land, namely, idolatry. Under the patronage of Queen Jezebel, prophets of the Canaanite high god Baal had *carte blanche* to do what they wanted in Israel (1 Kings 19:1–2). These prophets brought paganism to the ancient Israelites and gave false comfort to the royal court. For his opposition to this pagan worship and the kings who endorsed it, Elijah was labeled the “troubler of Israel” by Ahab (18:17). But the prophet was only doing what the faithful people of God always do, and that is live at peace with others unless and until a response to idolatry is needed. This sparked a confrontation between Elijah and the false prophets on Mount Carmel. There, before the people of Israel, Elijah called the nation to choose whom it would serve: the Lord or Baal. It was not possible for them to serve both or to be double-minded (vv. 20–21). Of course, this is

a theme that appears throughout the prophets and, indeed, the rest of the Bible. God is not interested in halfhearted commitment. He will either have our hearts in their entirety, or He will have nothing to do with us at all. From a human perspective, Elijah did not have the upper hand. He was outnumbered by the false prophets of Baal. However, that did not stop him from confronting them. We are familiar with the account of each side building an altar to its deity and calling down fire from heaven to prove which one was the true God. Elijah did everything possible to prove that Yahweh was God; he even soaked the sacrifices and built a moat so that only a powerful fire from heaven could consume the offering. That consuming fire is exactly what came for his sacrifice (vv. 22–40). Grounded in the Word of the Lord and trusting fully in His power, Elijah stood down a powerful enemy and testified to divine truth. *Coram Deo*: ultimately, God only demands one thing—our full commitment to Him. We were made for our Creator, and He will not share us with another. He will not have us as His if we try to divide our ultimate allegiance between Him and anything else. In Elijah's day, many in Israel tried to serve God and someone else on the side. We are ever tempted to do the same. Let us remember the One for whom we were made that we might realize that we can be satisfied in Him alone.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, we will observe the Lord's Supper in the morning service.

Today we will have our fellowship meal immediately following the morning service.

Bible Buddies and Bible Drill, and Children's Choir will *not* meet this afternoon.



December 20th @ 6pm
Fellowship to follow



Christmas Caroling
December 16th @
5:45pm
Fellowship to follow



Young Adult - December 11th, 6:30pm at the church (childcare provided)

Senior Adult (50 & up) - **UPDATED** The date has been changed to *Monday, 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 Ladies Bible Study will meet December 3rd and 17th at 10am at the church.

