

Morning Worship

December 10, 2017

Pastor — Allan Lane		Organ --- Alva Lou Schottel
Worship Leader — Don Beavers		Piano — Marcia Hart
As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.		
(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)		
Scripture Reading	Isaiah 11:1-10	Don/People
Hymn # 88	<i>Hark! the Herald Angels Sing</i>	Don/People
Worship Prayer		Allan Lane
Welcome and Fellowship		Allan/People
Chorus # 82	<i>Emmanuel</i>	Don/People
Missions Moment		
Hymn # 106	<i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</i>	Don/People
Hymn # 111	<i>Sing We Now of Christmas</i>	Don/People
Offering Prayer		Bill Schottel
Tithes and Offerings		People
Offering Music		Marcia Hart
Children's Worship		Children are dismissed
Scripture Reading	Luke 1:35-45	Allan/People
Message	<i>Elizabeth's Song</i>	Allan Lane
	Luke 1:35-45	
Hymn # 309	<i>Lord, I'm Coming Home</i>	Don/People
Prayer Concerns		Allan/People
Chorus # 427	<i>For He Alone is Worthy</i>	Don/People

Elizabeth's Song

Luke 1:24-45

Last week we looked at the song of Zechariah. While it wasn't the first of the songs, it goes along with Elizabeth's song, the one she sang when her cousin Mary arrived with the good news that she was carrying a special child conceived by the Holy Spirit. Actually, Elizabeth's song could be considered Elizabeth's Shout. Luke tells us that she exclaimed her praise at the top of her lungs. Let's learn about her shout of praise. Elizabeth rejoiced because ...

1. God Did Something Impossible . Luke 1:35-37

An Internet search allowed me to read about the Oldest known pregnancy today. A 70-year-old woman from India named Rajo Devi gave birth to a healthy child in 2008. Another 68 year old woman gave birth to twins in 2006. But these, and other geriatric pregnancies were the result of fertility drugs or In Vitro Fertilization. Such medical advances were not known in Elizabeth's day and I can assure you that in her time, 70 year old women did not give birth.

There was no hope that Elizabeth would ever have a child. When Elizabeth discovers the miracle that would take place in her womb, her response is that "God has done this for me" (Luke 1:25). The emphasis here is that God did something impossible.

Even the angel Gabriel told Mary that God was going to do something impossible for Elizabeth (Luke 1:35-37). Nothing is impossible with God. Jesus Himself would repeat this same truth (Luke 18:26-27).

It's possible that the miracles of the virgin birth and Elizabeth's late in life birth were in mind when Jesus made this comparison. The truth is that if you are born again, you have received the impossible in your life. For Mary and Elizabeth something that was physically impossible occurred in their lives. But for our salvation, something happened that was spiritually impossible in our lives. Just like Elizabeth, we have reason to shout our praise to God.

2. A Spirit-filled Friend Encouraged Her. Luke 1:39

Note the announcement to MARY is timed according to Elizabeth's pregnancy. When Luke gives us a chronology of events in the birth narrative of Jesus, he uses Elizabeth's pregnancy as the starting point (Luke 1:26). In this verse, the "sixth month" is the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy. The previous context to Luke 1:26 is about Elizabeth. The connecting verse between Elizabeth's miracle birth and Mary's miracle birth is Luke 1:26 and it is Elizabeth's birth that is the time reference. This elevates Elizabeth's birth to a very important status.

There is another time marker that signifies the importance of Elizabeth's pregnancy (Luke 1:36). This time marker is spoken by none other than Gabriel, and the response from Mary is instantaneous (Luke 1:39).

Note the comparisons and similarities between Mary and Elizabeth:

- i. Mary was young, and Elizabeth was old.
- ii. Mary was childless because she was a virgin. Elizabeth was childless because she was barren.
- iii. Both births were a great miracle.
- iv. Both women were godly.
- v. Both women were visited by the angel Gabriel.
- vi. Both women had husbands who were strong in their faith.

Mary spends three months encouraging Elizabeth (Luke 1:56). A godly friend can encourage you. If you are facing disappointment like Zacharias and Elizabeth's, God will sometimes send a friend to encourage you. It might come through a card or call, or time with someone who loves you. It can even come from someone you don't know or who lived long ago. We also can receive encouragement through sermons, books and songs written by people who, if we knew them, would befriend us. They grace us through their Spirit-filled words. God reminds us of his love through others who love God and can encourage us.

3. Jesus Came Near . Luke 1:40-41

Elizabeth's baby (John the Baptist) leaped in her womb. This pre-natal worship service is repeated in Luke 1:41, 44. When Jesus comes into our lives He brings joy. When we hear about Him, we should also leap for joy. This is why Jesus came (John 15:11).

4. She Was Humbled by God's Blessings. Luke 1:42-43

Elizabeth praises Mary. It is sad that this praise of Mary has been turned into false worship. This praise if the phrase monotonously recited by millions around the world today through the "hail Mary" that is the foundation of prayer in the Roman Catholic faith. But while Elizabeth's words recognize the blessing that Mary received by bearing the Messiah, her words in no way allow for the false teaching about Mary, or the Mary worship that so many have been committed to for centuries. There is no foundation in Scripture for many elements of Mary worship that exist today. This type

of worship does not draw us closer to Christ, but rather distracts us from Christ by giving us a substitute who is powerless to meet our spiritual need.

- i. Mary is not a co-redeemer with Christ.
- ii. Mary was not conceived without a human father.
- iii. Mary was not assumed into heaven.
- iv. Mary does not intercede for us in prayer to the Father.

Elizabeth's praise is genuine and reflects her humility (Luke 1:43). Elizabeth recognizes the authority of Christ:

- i. Before he is born.
- ii. Before he performs any miracles.
- iii. Before he preaches a single sermon.
- iv. Before he dies on the cross.
- v. Before he arose from the dead,

5. She Believed God's Word. Luke 1:45

Elizabeth knew something about miraculous pregnancy. She praised Mary for believing God's Word. Elizabeth's rejoicing spread to others. It was Elizabeth's encouragement that resulted in an even greater outburst of praise from Mary's lips, contained in her beautiful song to God, which we will also study as part of this series (Luke 1:45-55). All of Zacharias and Elizabeth's friends rejoice with them and praise God for the miracle given to this old couple who were blessed with a child (Luke 1:57-58).

Just remember that your barrenness, whether physical or spiritual, cannot keep you from praising God. Your barrenness will not continue. Your soul will rejoice in the Lord.

Lita Kurtzer wrote this poem:

*I refuse to be discouraged, to be sad, or to cry;
I refuse to be down-hearted, and here's the reason why:
I have a God who's mighty--who's sovereign and supreme;
I have a God who loves me, and I am on His team.*

*He is all-wise and powerful--Jehovah is His name;
Though everything is changeable, my God remains the same.
My God knows all that's happening--beginning to the end;
His presence is my comfort; He is my dearest Friend.*

*When sickness comes to weaken me--to bring my head down low;
I call upon my mighty God; into His arms I go.
When circumstances threaten to rob me of my peace,
He draws me close unto His breast where all my strivings cease.*

*When my heart melts within me, and weakness takes control,
He gathers me into His arms--He soothes my heart and soul.
The great "I AM" is with me--my life is in His hand;
The "God of Jacob" is my hope; it's in His strength I stand.*

*I refuse to be defeated -- my eyes are on my God;
He has promised to be with me as through this life I trod.
I'm looking past all circumstance to Heaven's throne above;
My prayers have reached the heart of God--I'm resting in His love.
I give God thanks in everything--my eyes are on His face;
The battle's His, the vict'ry mine; He'll help me win the race. --*

Conclusion:

Elizabeth extended love, acceptance, hospitality, hope and faith to a young girl in need of every bit she could offer. In my mind this story is all about how God cared for Mary. Mary, just a teenager at the time, was surely overwhelmed with the responsibility that was given to her. Even if she accepted and understood what the Angel had told her about the birth of Jesus, she needed human support. God directed her to community of faith to Godly Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah. Here she found people with a mutual faith, mutual hope and even a mutual experience. God took care of Mary. It seems obvious that God also directs us to community of people with a mutual belief – a church. Mary's faith very likely would have faltered without the encouragement and support of Elizabeth and Zechariah. Like Mary we need to make a priority of placing ourselves in a community of those who believe God's Word.

Notice again what Elizabeth says about Mary's unborn child. She calls him "my Lord." As far as we know, Elizabeth is the only person to confess, "Jesus is my Lord" while He was still unborn. What incredible spiritual insight she shows in being able to recognize that this little boy would be her Lord and the Lord of everyone else. Remember what the Bible says in Philippians 2:10-11. Elizabeth proclaimed it first – but she won't be the last.

The greatest way to begin the Christmas season is by submission to the person of Christ. Elizabeth recognized herself as a sinner who needed a savior, that Jesus was that Savior and so she submitted herself to Him. Have you submitted yourself to Him?

Follow Elizabeth's Confession!

Christmas Has Other Names?

iFeliz Navidad! Joyeux Noël! Frohe Weihnachten! God Jul! Sretan Božić! Crăciun fericit! Priecīgus Ziemassvētkus!

How do you keep the Christ in Christmas if your language doesn't have a Christ in it to begin with?

The languages of the world have quite a variety of names for Christmas. That's not surprising, what with different languages having different words for things, but it turns out that our Christmas name stocking is stuffed with words that mean quite a few unrelated things. And many of them have nothing to do with Christ.

Christmas lands right at the same time as winter solstice festivals that were celebrated long before the coming of Christianity. That's likely an important reason Christmas is celebrated when it is: to co-opt the pagan festivals. (Jesus probably wasn't actually born on December 25. Scholars — including, in a 2012 book, Pope Benedict XVI — have raised many questions and made many suggestions about his actual birth date.) And Christmas isn't the only Christian celebration to co-opt pagan festivals: Hallowe'en and All Saints' Day take over from a fall festival, for instance, and Easter gets its English name — and those eggs and bunnies — from a pagan goddess, Eostre. Likewise, Christmas gets its trees and holly and mistletoe and even its gift-giving traditions from pre-Christian religious celebrations, and in many languages it gets its name from them too.

Take Yule, for instance (Old English spelling: Geol). Yule featured trees, logs, boars, carol-singing, and feasting at night. It appears in Scandinavian languages as Jul (or, in Iceland and the Faroe Islands, Jól) and was borrowed into Finnish as Joulu and Estonian as Jõulud — all now their words for Christmas. Yule was a festival of a holy night (or nights), and that's where German name for Christmas, Weihnachten, comes from: Middle High German wihen nahten, "holy night" (also converted by Czech into Vánoce). Oh, yes, it's holy for Christians too. It was easy enough to convert the festival to Christianity. Other nearby countries had winter festivals, too. In Latvian, Christmas is Ziemassvētki, which means (drumroll, please) "winter festival."

The Romans had a similar festival: the day of the birth of the unconquered sun. In Latin, that's dies natalis solis invicti. Just as the festival came to celebrate the birth not of the sun but of the son (of God), that word natalis, "of the birth," changed over time as Latin split into different languages. It became French Noël, Italian Natale, Spanish Navidad, and Portuguese Natal. Celtic languages also borrowed it: Gaelic Nollaig, Welsh Nadolig, and Breton Nedeleg.

Romanian also came from Latin, but in Romanian, Christmas is Crăciun, which is thought to come from Latin calatio, the name of a calling together of the people by priests — pre-Christian ones. Hungarian uses another version of the same word, Karácsony. In Lithuanian, Christmas is Kalėdos, which has an unclear origin but may come from the same source or a related one.

Birth shows up in other languages' names for Christmas, and it's not always easy to say whether the term started in reference to the birth of Jesus or whether it was carried over from a reference to a pagan birth (as of the sun god, for instance). In Polish it's Boże Narodzenie, "birth of God." Croatian Božić is a similar reference to God (or a god). Russian and Bulgarian are clear about whose birth it is: their name is Рождество Христово (Rozhdestvo Khristovo), meaning "birth of Christ." Albanian Krishtlindja means the same thing. So does Greek Χριστούγεννα (Khristougenna, which sounds to English speakers like "khristuyenna"). You'll notice that the Greek word starts with a letter that looks just like X. This is where Xmas comes from — English borrowed on an ancient scribal tradition of representing the Greek word Christos (Χριστός) with its first initial.

There are quite a lot of languages that have only needed a word for Christmas in fairly recent times. Some have used translations of "the birth of Jesus" or words to that effect — Mandarin Chinese shèng dàn means "birth of the sage." But many have gotten their word from whatever European language had the strongest influence on them at the time. Some use versions of Noel or Natal. Many use an adaptation of Christmas.

Ah, yes, Christmas. Our word comes from Old English Cristes mæsse, "the mass (liturgical celebration) of Christ." Dutch Kerstmiss comes from the same thing. Pretty much every other language that has a word with that origin got it from English or Dutch... and usually English.

In quite a lot of languages, though, "krismas" is not a possible sound combination. Some languages don't allow you to put the consonants together without vowels in between (so the Japanese version is Kurisumasu). Others don't use one or more of the sounds in the word. Thanks to Bing Crosby's song "Mele Kalikimaka," a well-known case of this is Hawaiian. Hawaiian doesn't have the sound "r" or the sound "s," and it doesn't allow two consonants to go together either. The closest it can come to Christmas is Kalikimaka, with l for r and k for s (k can also be said like "t" and possibly even "s" in some contexts, though no one told Bing that), plus some extra vowels. Bing, Yule would have been easier to work with.

And what about "Chrismahanukwanzakah?" That's a combination of Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanza, and whatever else you might be celebrating these days. Well, all we really need to know is the reason for the season. That's always going to be Jesus. Merry Christmas!

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment... and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, December 10, 2017

Choir Rehearsal.....9:00 am

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, Bill Schottel,

Ken Kirkpatrick, ? ? ? ?

Alternate: Ken Nice

Christmas Tea with the Lanes

2-4 pm

No Evening Worship.....

Wednesday, December 13

Prayer Warriors 10:00 am

Prayer / Bible Study.... 6:30 pm

Worship Team 7:30 pm

Saturday, December 16 Church-wide Caroling..... 5:00 pm

Bring a snack for afterwards

Sunday, December 17, 2017

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Nice,

Fred Kerns, Don Sharp

Alternate: ? ? ? ?

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 20

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

No Worship Team

Up-Coming Events.....

December 10 — Christmas Tea with the Lanes

December 13 — Prayer Warriors

December 16 — Church-wide Caroling, 5 pm

December 24 — Christmas Eve Service 6:30 pm

December 25 — Christmas

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Nights
We will not meet tonight, Sunday, December 10.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

Come pray for the direction of our church. Also, we will begin a new study. Please plan to attend and pray at 6:30 pm.

Adopt-A-Family

Calvary Baptist is adopting two families for Christmas this year. If you would like to donate funds to help purchase the needed items please see Nancy McCamy or Pam Battreal.

Lottie Moon

Christmas Offering

This month we will emphasize this offering for International Missions. Our church goal is \$1,700.00.

CHRISTMAS TEA WITH THE LANES

Today, December 10

2-4 pm

You are invited to enjoy an afternoon of Christmas Fellowship at the parsonage. Plan to come and relax for a moment during the busy holiday season. We're looking forward to seeing you!

CHRISTMAS CARD BOXES IN THE HALLWAY

You may exchange Christmas Cards among your church family by placing your cards in the boxes in the hallway. Then contribute the postage you save to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering!

For the Record-

Attendance: December 3, 2017

Sunday School.....	32
Visitors.....	0
Total.....	32
Contacts Made.....	8
Morning Worship.....	45
Children's Worship.....	8
Sunday Night	7
Wednesday Night	13

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget	\$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ...	\$ 1,954.90
Lottie Moon.....	\$ 600.00
Long Family-Nov.....	\$ 181.00

Offering Received by Mail:

December Counting Team:

Don Beavers and Jordan Lane

December Van Driver:

Mike Green

Remember to call 232-3747
before 8 am if you need a ride.

December Member Birthdays:

03 ... Brent Fortune
08 ... Madeline Swink
09 ... Allison Adkinson
11 ... George Ferbert
15 ... George Burgess
16 ... Addison Leichti
16 ... Doris Richardson
19 ... Jessica Kirkpatrick
20 ... Leona Reynolds
20 ... Brenda Burgess
23 ... Joseph Coats

December Anniversaries

Bill and Alva Lou Schottel
December 22, 1962

Prayer Requests ...

Paul Molloy—Rachael & Erin's father
Brigida Winans—heel surgery
Mike Green—knee recovery
Arlette Duty—carpal tunnel
Gina Harr—surgery recovery
Joe Coats—pacemaker
Don Beavers—heart and health
Van Meter family
Curtis Conard—recovery
Emily Jones & baby
Gary & Peggy Fewins and family
Chad Bradford—heart surgery
Cynthia Burdick—cancer recovery
Karissa and Matt Long and family
The Waters Family—guidance
Stephanie & Jason Terpack
Shawna Hughes—home isolation
Gary and Sharon Yarbrough
Larry Danner—cancer
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister

Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Troy Griswold—cancer treatment
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
Rev. A. B. Brown Betty Campbell
George Ferbert Kevin Duty
Ellen Blanton Lois Ulmer
Jim Winans Nellie Reynolds
Madeline Swink Ann Riddle
Kathryn Beavers Keon McKahan
Louanne Laurence Leona Reynolds
Jozy Winans Kenny Duty
Pat Means Buddy Means
Bill & Juanita Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett Judy Anderson
Brenda Burgess Roscoe Lane
Carolyn Houts Tim Izer
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
