

Morning Worship

December 1, 2019

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ ---

Worship Leader — Al Shirley

Piano — Alva Lou Schottel

As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Welcome and Fellowship Allan/People

Scripture Reading Allan Lane

Hymn # 136 *Are You Washed in the Blood* Leader/People

Worship Prayer Allan Lane

Hymn # 436 *He Included Me* Leader/People

Hymn # 546 *Love Lifted Me* Leader/People

Offering Prayer Fred Kerns

Tithes and Offerings People

Offering Music Alva Lou Schottel

Hymn # 76 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* Leader/People

Hymn # 77 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Leader/People

Message Allan Lane

Hymn # 345 *Now I Belong to Jesus* Leader/People

Prayer Concerns Allan/People

Closing Chorus # 95 *Go Tell It on the Mountain* Leader/People

The Meaning of Christmas: Rescue

Romans 5:1-11

A television interviewer was walking the streets of Tokyo at Christmas time. Much as in America, Christmas shopping is a big commercial success in Japan. The interviewer stopped one young woman on the sidewalk, and asked, "What is the meaning of Christmas?" Laughing, she responded, "I don't know. Is that the day that Jesus died?"

Christ is dead to some people. Christ is not a part of their Christmas. It's just another holiday season to them and nothing more. It's the trappings and the treasures. It's the partying and the presents, but it's not the person of Christ.

The meaning of Christmas is to be found in the significance of the event that is at the heart of Christmas - the coming of Christ to this earth in order to be the Savior of the world. The Bible tells us that Christmas means that God has rescued us.

1. Our Gloomy Situation. Verse 6

Paul tells us that Christ came "at just the right time." What does this mean? Well, there are two meanings here:

It means that the world was prepared spiritually, economically, linguistically, politically, philosophically and geographically for the coming of Jesus and the fulfillment of His mission. God waited for the perfect time in history for His purposes in Christ to be fulfilled.

It also means Jesus died at the right time for us; He died when we were sinners needing a Savior. He rescued us "just in the nick of time." Why were we in need of being rescued? Paul identifies two reasons:

a. We were Hopeless . - "ungodly"

In the movie "The Babe," starring John Goodman as Babe Ruth, the film opens with a scene where Babe Ruth's father takes him to Saint Mary's Industrial School for Boys in Baltimore. He is accepted and labeled as "incurrigible," which the brothers at the school define as "bad beyond reform."

That's how we were, and that's why we need someone beyond ourselves to come and rescue us. Elsewhere, Paul expressed this fact this way in Romans 3:10-12.

b. We were Helpless . - "powerless"

We were powerless to see our situation improve. We were alienated from God by virtue of our sinfulness and could do nothing to change our situation. Even when we did try to do things that would hopefully put us right with God, we constantly came up short. The very best things about our lives were still tainted by our sinfulness (Isaiah 64:6).

We were powerless to delay the inevitable (Romans 6:23). Paul describes the inevitable end of all who are not right with God (2 Thessalonians 1:9).

Dr. Ian Paisley, the fiery Irish cleric and politician was reputed to have been preaching one Sunday on the End Times - and in particular on the Day of Judgment. As he reached the climax of his address he said that on the Day of Judgment "there would be wailing and gnashing of teeth." At which point an old woman put up her hand and said "Dr. Paisley, I have no teeth." Paisley replied "Madam, teeth will be provided"

This was our gloomy situation. No matter how we might try to avoid it, no matter how we might try to correct it, the fact remained that it was inevitable, we were guilty and condemned to be punished for our sin, and there was nothing we could do to change our situation.

So God came to earth in the person of Jesus Christ to change our situation for us. He did this through the sacrifice He made on our behalf.

2. Christ's Generous Sacrifice. Verses 7-8

Luke 19:10 reminds us that the Son of Man came to seek and to save those who are lost. How did He accomplish this and provide for our salvation? He sacrificially offered Himself as a substitute for us. He was punished in our place (Isaiah 53:5-6, 1 Peter 2:24).

There are two things Paul tells us here about Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross. The sacrifice of Christ is . . .

a. A Touching Sacrifice. Verse 7

The fact that Christ's sacrifice was not for the sake of a "righteous" person, or even a "good" person, but for a sinful, ungodly person, that is, for you and me, should touch our hearts. He died in my place. This is why we refer to Jesus as a Personal Savior.

An old Christian drama depicts a little boy working in his parent's carpentry shop in first century Jerusalem. He protests his chore, which is to assist in building a cross.

The parents insist that he help because Rome has given them a contract for construction of crosses.

In another scene the boy is weeping. "What is wrong?" his parents ask. He responds, "I went to the market place and I saw Jesus of Nazareth, the Man we love to hear preach, and He was carrying my cross! They took Him to Golgotha and nailed Him to MY cross."

The parents insist, "Oh no, son, that wasn't your cross. Other people in Jerusalem build crosses. That wasn't your cross." "Oh yes, it was! When you weren't looking, I carved my name on the cross I was making. When Jesus was carrying His cross, He stumbled right beside me, I looked, and my name was on His cross!"

b. A Transforming Sacrifice. Verse 8 "were"

Notice how Paul refers to us as being sinners in the past tense. He says "While we WERE still sinners," which implies that by virtue of the cross, something has changed in the way God now views us.

Before, we were "sinners," but now we are "saints." We were "lost," but now we are "found." We were "in sin," but now we are "in Christ." We were "children of the devil," but now we are "children of God." This is described in 1 Corinthians 6: 9; 11.

Can you imagine what would happen if you were going financially bankrupt, and you went to one of your creditors and said, "Here's what I want you to do: I want you to clear my debt, give me a brand new start, and then I want you to adopt me as one of your own children." After that creditor recovered from either a heart attack, or laughing in your face, he would make a phone call to the nearest mental hospital to have you taken away.

But God doesn't do that. God says, "I know you are spiritually bankrupt. And so I will clear your debt, give you a new start, and I will adopt you as one of My own children." How's that for amazing? Read Romans 3:22-24 to see how amazing this really is.

3. Your Grateful Surrender. Verses 10-11

Since we are beneficiaries of the greatest sacrifice, there is only one sensible response. We must surrender humbly and gratefully for all God has done for us through His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

a. Saved from Wrath .

It is through His sacrifice that we are excused from the wrath of God. Having been enemies with God, we have been reconciled. There is to be great rejoicing in our hearts and lives.

b. Saved by His Life .

Having been reconciled we will be saved by His life. The life Jesus lived was for one purpose alone – to reconcile us to God.

Conclusion

We began today talking about Christmas in Japan. It has become a major event. They put up decorations, exchange presents, send cards, sing yuletide songs, decorate trees, serve special seasonal treats and make a big fuss over St. Nick, Rudolph and Frosty. Their Santa is sometimes dressed like a Samurai. It is very important for single adults to have a date for a romantic dinner on Christmas Eve. And for reasons that can't be determined, a big Christmas tradition is attending a concert of Beethoven's 9th Symphony.

The one thing the Japanese do not do at Christmas is honor Christ. That's because Japan is nearly 99% Shinto and Buddhist. A missionary to Japan was asked if

Christmas was Santa's birthday. Only 1/2 of 1 percent of Japan's population is Christian. So where do you think they got this commercial version of Christmas? It came from observing our North American practices. They are attracted to the glitter and romance of the American version of Christmas, and have adopted nearly everything except the spiritual significance of the season.

Satan and sin have captured and enslaved Christmas. But we know in the person of Jesus Christ, God crossed from heaven to earth in order to rescue us. And that's the meaning of Christmas.

Jesus Came Down!

The First Sunday of Advent

Another Thanksgiving has passed and once again we approach the Christmas season. It seems far too common that many in our society want to celebrate Christmas without embracing Christ. Therefore, they seek to define the meaning of Christmas in terms other than Biblical terms. For example, Christmas is commonly defined today as "a time of brotherly love," or "a time of giving," or "a time spent with family and friends." Indeed, the Christmas holiday involves many of these things. But we must not make the mistake of confusing form for substance. The things we do and the sentiments we express in our celebration of Christmas do not define what Christmas is. Our Sunday Morning Worship Christmas Sermon Series this year will focus on *The Meaning of Christmas*. Since the true meaning is found throughout Scripture, and not just in the Christmas narratives, you are encouraged to prepare yourself for Christmas as much as possible.

Each year we prepare for the coming of Christmas. We spend time decorating our homes. We spend time putting lights on our houses. We spend time setting up our Christmas trees. We spend time searching for and buying presents for the ones we love. We as Americans spend a lot of time preparing for the coming of Christmas. Often we celebrate Advent at the beginning of our worship time on Sunday Morning, but this year you are encouraged to celebrate it in your homes. Over the next four weeks I'm going to give you instructions and you may spend some time at your family altar preparing your hearts for the Coming King. It's up to you whether you take the time to make an Advent Wreath and light the candles. I'll give you suggestions for meditation and lighting one candle each week if you choose until you have lit all your candles.

The first candle we will light will help us to remember the *prophets*, those brave men of old who foretold of the coming of a King. Thousands of years before the birth of Christ, God sent prophets as messengers to let the world know that a new King was coming.

The Prophet Isaiah wrote (Isaiah 9:2, 6 HCSB):

"The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light; a light has dawned on those living in the land of darkness...For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on His shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."

Today we remember the Prophets as they faithfully proclaimed the coming of a Savior. May we be faithful to proclaim that a Savior has come and His name is Jesus Christ. Light the first candle (if you are using one).

Then pray something like this: Father, today we begin our time of preparation for the birthday of your Son. May the light of this candle remind us that You have given hope to a people who have walked in darkness. You have spoken to us through your prophets let us be receptive to hear. As we view this candle may we remember that your Word is faithful and that your promises still burn brightly in our lives. Amen.

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan
Sunday, December 1, 2019

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Ken Nice, Fred Kerns, Don Sharp, Dillon Burgess

Alternate: ? ? ? ?

Evening Worship..... 6:30 pm

Monday, December 2

Food Kitchen 5:30 pm

Wednesday, December 4

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

Sunday, December 8, 2019

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Gary Yarbrough, Don Sharp, Ken Nice

Alternate: Ken Nice

Evening Worship....6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 11

Prayer Warriors 10:00 am

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

Up-Coming Events

December 2 — Food Kitchen

December 11 — Prayer Warriors 10 am

December 15 — Christmas Tea at the Lanes 2:00-4:00 pm

December 21 — Church-wide Caroling 4 pm

December 24 — Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm

GROW Team

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

Sunday Night

We will have Sunday Night service tonight. Join us and our church family as we continue to study *The Ten Commandments*.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

Last week we began a new study entitled "Who Needs Christmas." Won't you please attend and pray for the direction of our church?

Urgent Prayer Need Youth Sunday School Teacher

Is God calling you to serve? It would be good to have more than one person. Pray about it! God knows our need! For more information, talk to Bro. Allan.

Welcome New Members

Bob and Linda Conz

515 South 31st Street

Saint Joseph, MO 64501

The Christmas Card

Mail Box

It will be done a little bit differently this year. There will be a collection box in the entryway for everyone to "mail" their cards. If you would like to share cards with your church family, you may place them in the box throughout the month of December. Then our youth will sort the mail, and deliver it between Sunday School and Church. As always, we suggest you use the money you save on postage to contribute to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Our church goal is \$1,500.00

Christmas Tea With the Lanes

December 15

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!

For the Record-

Attendance: November 24, 2019

Sunday School.....	29
Visitors.....	3
Total.....	32
Contacts Made.....	0
Morning Worship.....	47
Sunday Night	N/A
Children's Worship	??
Wednesday Night	7

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget \$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ... \$ 1,938.00
Long Family – November \$ 150.00

Offering Received by Mail:

December Counting Team:

Linda Dotson and Jordan Lane

December Van Driver:

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

December Member Birthdays:

03 ... Brent Fortune
09 ... Allison Adkinson
15 ... George Burgess
16 ... Addison Leichti
16 ... Doris Richardson
19 ... Jessica Kirkpatrick
20 ... Brenda Burgess
23 ... Joseph Coats

December Anniversaries

Bill and Alva Lou Schottel
December 22, 1962

Prayer Requests ...

Betty Campbell
Romey Keith Davis
Corey Whorton
Jim and Brigida Winans
Janette Shirley—Al's daughter-in-law
Ruth Anne Bush and Family
Carl Conard—Jack's cousin

John Lewis
Mike Green—ankle surgery
Jack and Flo Conard
Sharon Russell—George's sister
June Fritchle
Gary Hurst—cancer
Susie Long—Alice Coat's Sister
Swymeller's Grandsons—kidneys
Shirley Wilson—strength and recovery
Sandy and Stanley Wilson
Linda Huff—PTL! Cancer free!
Romey Keith Davis—Music
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings
Arlette Duty—strength
Karissa and Matt Long and family
Tim Waters
Chuck and Gloria Stewart
Sharri Duty
Stephanie & Jason Terpack—guidance
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
Doris Richardson Elmer Mayse
Kevin Duty Tim Izer
Bill Dunn Nellie Reynolds
Ann Riddle Kenny Duty
Keon McKahan Buddy Means
Jozy Winans Curtis Conard
Pat Means Seth Long
Bill & Juanita Brenda Burgess
Pat Puckett
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service Women and Men
Terrorism in our world

Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
