

December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Peace)

■ **Welcome / Call to Worship**

■ **“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”**.....Hymn 131

Angels from the realms of glory Wing your flight o'er all the earth
Ye who sang creation's story Now proclaim Messiah's birth

Come and worship, Come and worship

Worship Christ, the newborn King

Shepherds, in the field abiding Watching o'er your flocks by night
God with man is now residing Yonder shines the infant Light

Sages, leave your contemplations Brighter visions beam afar
Seek the great Desire of nations Ye have seen His natal star

Saints before the altar bending Watching long in hope and
fear Suddenly the Lord, descending In His temple shall appear

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising To th'e ternal Three in One;

■ **“O Holy Night!”**.....Hymn 148

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining; It is the night of
the dear Savior's birth! Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary
world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on
your knees, O hear the angel voices!

O night divine, O night when Christ was born!

O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, With glowing
hearts by His cradle we stand. So led by light of a star sweetly
gleaming, Here came the wise men from Orient land. The King of
kings lay thus in lowly manger, In all our trials born to be our Friend!
He knows our need, To our weakness is no stranger
Behold your king, before Him lowly bend! Behold your King, before
Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and
His Gospel is peace. Chains shall He break for the slave is our
brother And in His Name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of
joy in grateful chorus raise we, Let all within us praise His holy Name!
Christ is the Lord Oh praise His name forever! His pow'r and glory
evermore proclaim! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.

■ **Catechism**

■ **“Arise, My Soul, Arise”** by Samuel Stennett CCL #801260

Arise, my soul, arise; shake off thy guilty fears:
the bleeding Sacrifice in my behalf appears: before the throne my
Surety stands, before the throne my Surety stands,
my name is written on His hands.

He ever lives above, for me to intercede, His all-redeeming love, His
precious blood to plead; His blood atoned for all our race, His blood
atoned for all our race, and sprinkles now the throne of grace.

Five bleeding wounds He bears, received on Calvary;
they pour effectual prayers, they strongly plead for me.

"Forgive Him, O forgive," they cry, "Forgive Him, O forgive,"
they cry, "nor let that ransomed sinner die!"

The Father hears Him pray, His dear Anointed One;
He cannot turn away the presence of his Son.
His Spirit answers to the blood, His Spirit answers to the blood,
And tells me I am born of God!

My God is reconciled; His pard'ning voice I hear;
He owns me for his child, I can no longer fear; with confidence I now
draw nigh, with confidence I now draw nigh,
and "Father, Abba, Father!" cry.

■ **Confession / Pastoral Prayer**

■ **“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”** CCLI License #801260

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear, Now to His temple draw near;

Praise Him in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, Who over all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, Yea, so gently sustaineth! Hast thou
not seen how all thy longings have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee. Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do, If with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord O let all that is in me adore Him! All that
hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him. Let the
Amen sound from His people again: Gladly for aye we adore Him.

Praise to the Lord, who came humbly, born King in a stable!
Who else can blot out sin? Only Messiah is able!

Come and adore! The Way! Our Me-di-a-tor!

Sing "Glory to God!" and be grateful!

■ **“Angels We Have Heard on High”**

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the
plains, And the mountains in reply Echo back their joyous strains.

Glo - r - ia in excelsis Deo, Glo - r - ia in excelsis Deo

“He Who is Mighty” by Rebecca Elliott and Kate DeGraide © 2014 Sovereign Grace Praise CCLI #801260

Oh, the mercy our God has shown To those who sit in death's
shadow The sun on high pierced the night
Born was the Cornerstone

**Unto us a Son is given, unto us a Child is born
He Who is mighty has done a great thing Taken on flesh,
conquered death's sting Shattered the darkness and lifted our
shame Holy is His name**

Oh, the freedom our Savior won The yoke of sin has been
broken Once a slave, now by grace No more condemnation
**Now my soul magnifies the Lord I rejoice in the God Who
saves I will trust His unfailing love
I will sing His praises all my days**

■ **Message** - "Simeon: Joy at Christ's Coming!"
Luke 2:22-35 - Scott

■ **Closing Song / Benediction**

A Word from Pastor Scott Sunday December 20, 2020

*"But when the fulness of time had come, God sent forth His Son,
born of woman, born under the law,
to redeem those who were under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as sons" - Galatians 4:4-5*

The coming of Christ into the world has changed everything for us who believe in Him! That's what we're here to celebrate this morning. And really, it's what we come together to celebrate every Sunday – or at least it should be. But there is something very special about our celebration when we get this close to Christmas Day. I'm not even sure exactly what it is. For some, it could be a matter of tradition – many have fond memories of Christmases gone by. It could be the anticipation of getting together with family and friends to exchange gifts (though circumstances this year may have put a damper on that for some). But for us who truly belong to Christ, it is a time of joy as we think about Him!

One of the things I love to think about this time of year as the light of day grows dim and the cold seems to cover everything, is how Christ's coming broke through the darkness of this cold world to bring in light and life to all who receive Him. We'll see a picture of that in this morning's message from Luke 2:21-35. Simeon was a man who waited patiently for the day of Christ's coming. And when he saw that he had finally come, he embraced the infant Jesus with great joy telling everyone who would hear that Messiah was here! God's promise had been kept! And now, the light would shine so that people from every nation, tribe and tongue might come to know the warmth of the Father's love That's a story worth hearing again! It's a story worth telling everyone about!

I said last week that, just as at Easter we proclaim that *"He is Risen! He is risen indeed!"* So I think here at Christmas we ought to shout the good news as well that *"Christ has come! He has come indeed!"* And that changes everything!

Rejoicing in the good news that He is here!

Pastor Scott Lee

This Week's Fighter Verse: Feed Your Soul by Memorizing

Scripture! Each week's '*Fighter Verse*' is meant to help you "fight the good fight" of faith. This year's fighter verses are drawn from our weekly catechism (See "The New City Catechism")

Romans 8:34

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

This week's Catechism # 51

Of what advantage to us is Christ's ascension?

Christ physically ascended on our behalf, just as he came down to earth physically on our account, and he is now advocating for us in the presence of his Father, preparing a place for us, and also sends us his Spirit.

Next week's Catechism # 52

What hope does everlasting life hold for us?

It reminds us that this present fallen world is not all there is; soon we will live with and enjoy God forever in the new city, in the new heaven and the new earth, where we will be fully and forever freed from all sin and will inhabit renewed, resurrection bodies in a renewed, restored creation..

"Simeon: Joy at Christ's Coming"

(Luke 2:21-35)

- I. The Faithfulness of His coming in _____ to God's Law vv21-24
- (1) His _____ v21 Gn 12:2-3
 - (2) His _____ as an offering to the Lord vv22-23
Ex 13: 1-15 ; Nm 8:15
 - (3) The _____ of His mother vv22,24 Lev 12:1-7
 - Jesus entered these things _____
 - The purification was not for Him, it was for _____
- II. The _____ of His coming as the promised Messiah vv25-32
- (1) The _____ Simeon v25-26 ; Isa 49:13, 52:9-10
 - (2) The _____ of Simeon v27-28
 - (3) The _____ of Simeon vv29-32
 - Now I'm _____ v29
 - I see your _____ v30
 - I see the _____ you sent for the world v31-32
Isa 49:6, 60:1-3
- III The _____ of His coming into this Dark World vv34-35
- (1) The cost to _____ Mt 10:34 ; Mk 16:16
 - (2) The cost to _____ Jn 1:11 ; Isa 53:3
 - (3) The cost to _____
- All this pain and suffering are leading somewhere.....

THIS WEEK AT ROCKPORT

SUNDAY - December 20

Worship 9:00 AM & 10:45 AM
(Please enter/leave wearing a mask at both services)

Rockport Christmas Celebration Tonight 6:00 PM

THURSDAY - December 24

Rockport Christmas Eve Celebration 5:00 PM

Prayerfully consider Rockport's Budget Needs

Rockport Weekly Budget Goal.....\$4,284.00

November Weekly Average.....\$4,784.56

Announcements

- If you are interested in singing a song at this year's Christmas Celebration TONIGHT at 6 PM, see Stuart McMillian ASAP.
- Don't forget our annual Christmas Eve Service which starts at 5 PM on, you guessed it, Christmas Eve.
- For young adults, aged 18-25. You can register on line for "The Cross" happening December 29-30. You can watch online or join others who will be watching livestream at First Baptist Church of Arnold.
- Please pray for our elders as we seek the Lord for wisdom about many things as we move into the new year. We hope to get an update out to you soon.

Kids' Listening Sheet (12/20/20)

Message Title: "Joy at Christ's _____"

Bible Passages: Luke 2: _____



Key Words: Circle each word every time you hear it.

Christmas	Birth	Gift	Joy
Baby	Old	Offering	Obedience
Blessing	Song	Tears	Sorrow
Spirit	Law	Israel	Savior

What are three important things you heard during the sermon?

1.

2.

3.

Draw two pictures that show what you heard today:

1.

2.