

## Seeing Jesus More Clearly and Dearly

by Scotty Smith

*“Do not be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. **2 Kings 6:16-17***

Heavenly Father, we do/will experience challenging stretches in our journey Home. But, thankfully, we’ll never experience a Christ-absent day. As you opened the eyes of Elisha’s servant to see the hills covered with horses and chariots of fire, we ask you to show us more of Jesus in the upcoming season of Advent.

Truly, we don’t need a cavalry, but The Calvary. Because of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, *“greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4)*. May your love drive out our fears, your peace rule in our hearts, and your grace guide what we see. May we see Jesus as sovereign over our lingering regrets, unknown future, and present everything.

We are never without an Advocate, Intercessor, and Friend. Legions of angels answer his bidding; demons flee his presence; hurricanes become zephyrs at his speaking. During the entire season of Advent, may Jesus’ beauty and love take our breath away; then fill our lungs with the oxygen of grace. So very Amen we pray, in his tender and triumphant name.



November 29, 2020

10:30 A.M.

## The Wonderful Counselor

Wonderful  
COUNSELOR  
Almighty God  
Everlasting Father  
Prince of Peace



Isaiah 9:6

# Order of Service

## Announcements

Welcome

## Preparation for Worship

----- God's Greatness -----

Lighting of Advent\* Wreath—the Prophecy Candle

## Call to Worship

Hymn: “O Come O Come Emmanuel” . . . . . Neale/Walker-Smith

## Prayer of Invocation

## Hymn

“Joy Has Dawned/Angels we Have Heard on High” . . . Townend/Getty

## Children are Dismissed to Sunday School

----- God's Renewal -----

## Scripture Warning

## Public Confession

## Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: Galatians 2:20

Song of Renewal: “Christmas Offering” . . . . . Paul Baloche

----- God's Grace -----

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

## Prayer

## Sermon

“The wonderful Counselor”

## Celebration of the Lord's Supper\*

Hymn: “This is Love/Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”  
. . . . . Wesley/Prichard/Baloche/Scott

## Prayer of Approach

Words of Institution: 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (ESV)

----- God's Blessing -----

## Parting Hymn

“He Has Come for Us” . . . . . Ingram/Andrews

## Benediction

### God's Gracious Provision 11/22/2020

Offering: \$1130.00

Attendance: 37

Your offering may be placed in the box at the Welcome Table.

## 2. The Providence of the Christ, the Wonderful Counselor

God is the great motive-power of all things; he is in everything. Not only did he make all things, but by him all things consist. From all eternity, Christ was the Counselor of his Father with regard to providence—when the first man should be born, when he should wander, and when he should be restored—when the first monarchy should rise, and when its sun should set—where his people should be placed, how long they should be placed, and where they should be moved.

Let us rest assured that he is too good to be unkind, and that in the council of eternity, the best was ordained that could have been ordained—that if you and I had been there, we could not have ordained half so well, but that we should have made ourselves eternal fools by meddling therewith. Rest certain, that in the end we shall see that all was well and must be well for ever. He is "Wonderful, the Counsellor," for he counselled in matters of providence should be moved.<sup>3</sup>

## 3. The Sufficiency of the Christ, The Wonderful Counselor

Like the people of God at the end of chapter 8, plunged into darkness and gloom of anguish, thrust into thick darkness, Jesus too was thrust into thick darkness, impenetrable, when the Father turned His face away at the cross.

Jesus has been cut off and disowned so that the plague, every plague of the human heart – whether the guilt of sin or the paralysis of fear or the pain of loss or the gloom of loneliness or the grief of death – every plague of the human heart find in Jesus a Wonderful Counselor who hears with understanding when no one else understands, who loves without reserve when everyone else holds back, who gives grace to pardon and to cleanse and to comfort and to uphold you when every other resource runs dry. David Strain, First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Mississippi.

## The Invitation

Have seen the great Light? Have you tasted true joy, discovered real freedom? It is found in one place: only one place. It is found in the Son who is given, the child who was born. You find it in the Wonderful Counselor. You find it in Jesus Christ.

<sup>1</sup>Young, E. (1965). The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 1–18 (Vol. 1, pp. 334–335). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

<sup>2</sup>Spurgeon, C. H. (1866). Frost and Thaw. In The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit Sermons (Vol. 12, p. 25). London: Passmore & Alabaster.

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## Upcoming Events

### Wonderful

We are brought head on, as it were, with God Himself as we hear the names of the Child. It is our first encounter with Him. All the following designations are influenced by or stand under the shadow of this first majestic name. This Child who is born for us is Wonder.<sup>1</sup>

“The Old Testament usage of the word compels us to the conclusion that it here designates the Messiah not merely as someone extraordinary, but as one who in His very person and being is a wonder. He is that which surpasses human thought and power. He is God Himself.” He is wonderful not just in the sense that He is attractive or special or inspiring. He’s wonderful not simply because He evokes in us a sense of wonder, and He should. He is Himself the great Wonder. He is exalted, sovereign, supernatural. He is this baby born, this child given, is God born a man.” —E.J. Young

### Counselor

It was by a Counselor that this world was ruined. Did not Satan mask himself in the serpent, and counsel the woman with exceeding craftiness, that she should take unto herself of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, in the hope that thereby she should be as God? Was it not that evil counsel which provoked our mother to rebel against her Maker, and did it not as the effect of sin, bring death into this world with all its train of woe? Ah! beloved, it was meet that the world should have a Counsellor to restore it, if it had a Counsellor to destroy it. It was by counsel that it fell and certainly, without counsel it never could have arisen.<sup>2</sup>

#### 1. The Wisdom of the Christ, the Wonderful Counselor

- *We need to be able to face death with assurance, confidence, and even joy.* Do you have that? You might not think you need it yet, but you will. Even before you face death, you’re going to be facing death with people you love extremely well. You have to be able to face death with confidence, assurance, and even joy.
- *We must be able to live with our own past.* You must be able to get absolute peace of conscience. You must have deep self-acceptance, no matter what you’ve done, even if you’ve murdered people.
- *We must be able to forgive your enemies, even if they’ve raped and murdered our family.* We have to be able to forgive our enemies from the heart. We have to be able to forgive ourselves and live with our past.

**TONIGHT, November 29 6:00—8:00 P.M.** Youth Group(Grades 6-12) will meet at the Deicherters. The topic is Biblical Applications from Christian Music.

**Thursday, December 3 7:00 P.M.** Small Group at the home of Pastor Rick.

**Sunday, December 13 6:15-7:15 P.M.**

**GCC Prayer Gathering** at the House of Prayer

**Thursday, December 24 7:00 P.M.** GCC Christmas Eve Service

### Ministry Volunteer Needed

We need someone who would be responsible for videoing the Sunday worship service, and editing the video for publication. All equipment will be provided. See Pastor Rick if interested.

**\*A Word About Communion at Grace** This is a time for all people to seek the Lord. For Christians, Communion (also called The Lord’s Supper or The Eucharist, which means ‘thanksgiving’) is a time to meet with their Savior by faith, to be strengthened and renewed by Him as they eat bread and drink wine. All Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior and Lord, belong to a church that embraces the gospel, are at peace with their fellow neighbor, and seek strength and grace to live more faithfully to Christ, are invited to participate. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer and to consider more deeply your relationship to Jesus Christ. We also ask that children who have not yet publicly professed their faith in Christ refrain from partaking until doing so.



**\* Lighting the Advent Wreath** originated in Germany in the nineteenth century, based on a Roman custom of the ceremonial entrance of a ruler to a province or city as his ‘advent’ (from the Latin *adventus*: ‘arrival’). The wreath consists of four candles placed in the wreath itself and one candle in the center. One candle is lit the first Sunday of Advent. Two are lit the 2nd Sunday, and so on. Each of the candles has special significance: The first is the Prophecy candle; the second is the Bethlehem candle; the third is the Angels’ candle; the 4th is the Shepherds’ candle; and the center candle is the Christ candle, lit on Christmas Eve.

## Prayer/Praise. . . . .November 29, 2020

- Pray for continued healing for Jess and Russ Korne, who have Covid-19. Praise that their children do not have the virus.
- Pray for Nic Collins, who will be going to Quito, Ecuador for a mission trip at the end of March. Pray for travel, safety, and no COVID. Pray for funds to be raised, as they will be helping in the capital with special needs children and teens.
- Pray for Mary Morrell. Pray for continued wisdom for the doctors to know the best treatment for Mary.
- Pray for continued healing for Greg Aument.
- Pray for continued healing for Chris, a close friend of Rindy Lee. Pray that Chris and Dana experience hope and peace and ultimately a dynamic relationship with Jesus.
- Pray for continued good health for Hannah, Karl and Cindy Yorgey's granddaughter.
- Pray for the opportunity for Joie's friend to join her for church during this season.
- Pray for Lynn Rhoads, who was a former boss of Donna Jenkins. Pray for continued healing for Lynn.
- Pray for Diane Ziegler, a former co-worker of Dawn Fleetman. Pray for continued healing for Diane.
- Pray for Debbie Breyer, friend of Donna Jenkins. Pray for salvation and healing for Debbie.
- Pray for Joe, the father of Dawn Fleetman's friend, Mike. Pray for continued healing for Joe, who is no longer on a ventilator.
- Pray for Jeremiah Mace, who is in a 9-month internship program. Please pray for continued healing for the Mace family.
- Pray for Amanda and John, friends of Koreen Mace, that God will speak to them about their relationship and assurance of their salvation.
- Pray for Tyler and Kaci Yensan as they start their life together.
- Pray for our college students. Some of our college students: Ashley Adams, Emmett Deichert, Timmy Deichert, Lulu Deichert, Jeremy Adams, Cassie Frame, Macie Frame, Bethany Perks, Nic Collins, Dominique Viola, Carena Williams, Brenna Pritchard, Brandon Crothers, Marissa O'Conner, Brooke Toonies.
- Pray for Mandi Yensan's friend, Tammy. Pray that the brain tumors would be gone. Tammy needs maintenance chemo for her lung cancer. Pray for energy, strength, and healing for Tammy. God has used this sickness to bring Tammy to Himself.

## Message

### The Wonderful Counselor

#### Advent Week 1

*Isaiah 9:1–7 (ESV)*

*But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. <sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

#### The Context

In chapter 8 of Isaiah the prophetic pronounces dire predictions of coming suffering for the people of God. "They will look to the earth," Isaiah says, "but behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish, and they will be thrust into thick darkness." It is not a happy picture. But then when chapter 9 opens and it's like the sun coming up. There is a message of coming hope, bright and clear. It's a message with all of it entirely focused on the birth of a baby. "***For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulders.***"

#### Introduction

Why is it that the birth of this child should affect such a great reversal? What is it about this child that makes all the difference, that makes Him the turning point for every human life that trusts in Him?

The four names of Isiah 9:6 are really designed to answer those questions. They tell us who Jesus is and what He's come to do. They tell us why Christmas is really worth celebrating. Each name, each title has two parts – Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.