

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*



God is worthy of worship because of all the benefits He has bestowed upon us. We are to give thanks to Him every day for who He is, what He has accomplished for us in Christ, and for what He does for us each and every day.

For me, the Lord has restored my health. At the beginning of the year, I discovered that my immune system is low, having low immunoglobulin G levels. Now, I have been taking Hyzentra for the last seven months, and my immune system is going back to normal.

Second, even though both Mindy and I contracted coronavirus in April, it was mild compared to many people, and we survived.

Third, I began traveling again in September. By God's grace and your partnership, I have traveled to Albania, Westminster, MD, Pottstown, PA twice, and southwest Asia on a prayer trip.

Fourth, I am thankful for you – without our faithful and generous partners, it would be difficult to do what we do.

Fifth, and above all, I am thankful that I am a child of the King and that my name is written down in the book of life (Luke 10:20).

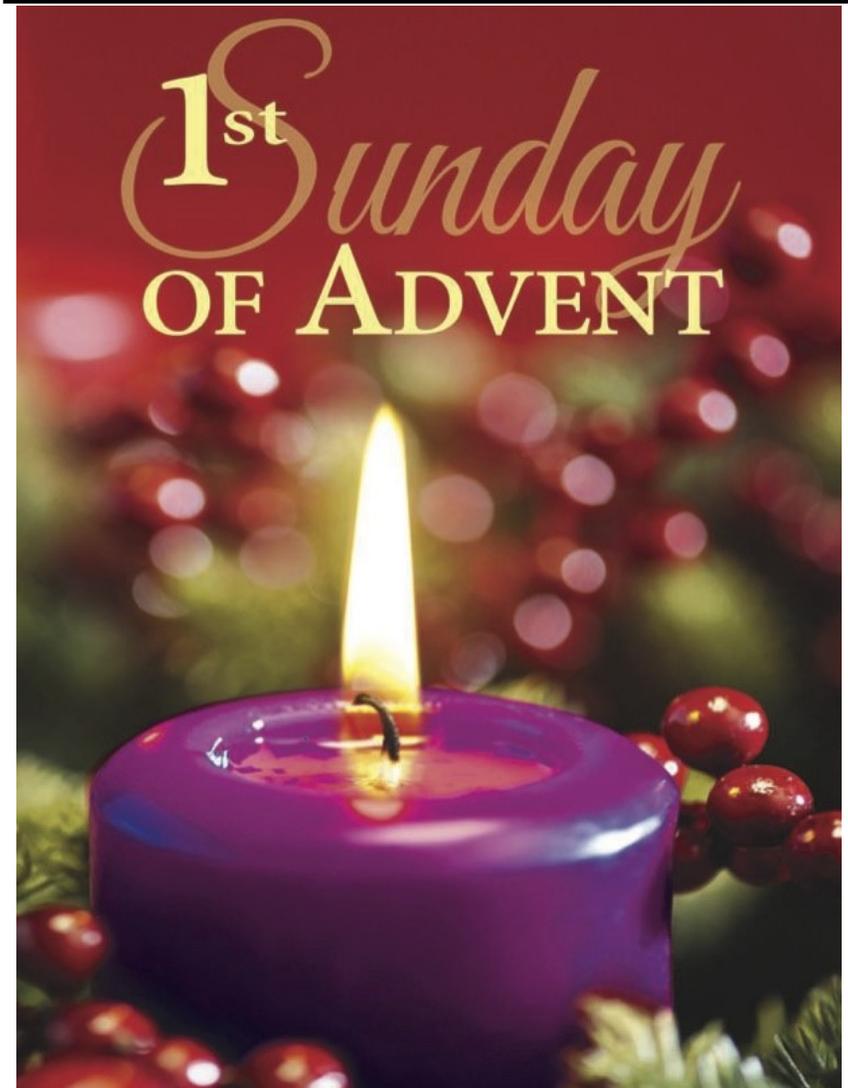
David Nelson
Crossing Cultures International



November 28, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus



Order of Service

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship

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

Call to Worship

Hymn of Proclamation

"This is Love/ Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

. . . Wesley/Prichard/Baloche/Scott

Prayer of Invocation

Affirmation of Faith: The New City Catechism*, Q/A #21, 22 & 23

Song of Praise: Hymn of Heaven . . . Johnson/Davenport/Wickham

Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

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

Understanding Ourselves Rightly

Public Confession

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: Romans 8:1

Song of Renewal: "Heaven Everywhere". Glover/Battistelli

Lighting of Advent* Wreath—the Prophecy Candle

Isaiah 9:2–7 (ESV)

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

Scripture Reading: Galatians 4:1–7 (ESV)

Prayer

The Sermon

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Hymn: "What Grace is Mine". . . Traditional Irish Melody/Lyrics: Getty

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Approach

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:22-25 (Optional)

Holy Communion

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

Parting Hymn: "Joy to the World". Watts/Handel

Benediction



"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus," was written by the prolific

eighteenth-century hymn writer, Charles Wesley. Brother of John Wesley, the cofounder of Methodism, Charles wrote over 6,000 hymns, many of which we sing today (including "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing").

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" wonderfully epitomizes the thematic diversity of Advent. In this hymn, we put ourselves back into the place of the Israelites, hoping for God to send a king who would bring freedom, strength, and consolation. Yet, we also sing this song as people who know that Jesus was the promised Messiah, that he came to set us free from our sins, that he is the Desire of every nation, not just the Jewish people. Because we understand that his work on earth is not finished, we ask Jesus, "Now thy gracious kingdom bring." We hope for the time when Christ will return, establishing fully and finally the kingdom of God.

In Advent, we long for the second coming of Christ and for the fullness of the kingdom. Yet, in our yearning we also open our hearts to him, inviting him to fill us and use us through the power of his Spirit. Thus, as we pray, "Come, Thou long expected Jesus," are asking him to come into our hearts afresh, to rule over us today so that we might serve him in everything we do

God's Gracious Provision 11/21/2021

Attendance: 48

Offering: \$2792.00

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

in perfect obedience, He was able to redeem all other men who were under the Law but not obedient to it, provided they had saving faith in Him.²

The redemption was not merely to rescue us from slavery; it was to make us sons!

Adoption is a compound of *huios* (son) and *thesis* (a placing) and refers to a man's giving the status of sonship to someone who is not his natural child. Because men are not naturally the children of God, they can become His sons only by divine adoption.

5. Your identity has changed.

In Christ you used to be a slave, but now you are a son. Everything about you and everything about your future has changed.

When you look at Advent and see a baby, remember that it was this baby that made the miracle of your redemption possible. When you consider Christmas, remember that it was this baby that made possible the greatest transformation in your life. Remember that it was this baby that brought you into God's family.

¹George, T. (1994). *Galatians* (Vol. 30, p. 301). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

²MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1983). *Galatians* (p. 108). Chicago: Moody Press.

Notes

Upcoming Events

Monday, November 29 7:00 P.M. Men's Small Group at the home of Dave and Lisa Frame.

Tuesday, November 30 6:30-8 P.M. Youth Group will meet at the home of the Deicherts.

Saturday, December 4 6:00 P.M. Prayer Dinner at the home of Pastor Rick and Barb

Sunday, December 5 6:30-8:00 P.M. Young Adult Bible Study at the home of the Deicherts.

Sunday, December 12 Ladies Night Out 5:00 P.M. At the home of Pastor Rick and Barb. A light supper will be served.

Sunday, December 19 6:15-7:15 P.M. House of Prayer
GCC Prayer Gathering for youth and adults—1300 High St.

Tuesday, December 21 6-9 P.M. Norco Carnival of Lights and Christmas Party at the Deicherts. Bring a white elephant gift. Cost: \$14.00

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

Friday, January 7 to Sunday, January 9 Young Adult Retreat at the Inn of Hope at SPADE international. For ages 17-30. see Deana Deichert for more information.

Looking Ahead: February 25-27 Youth Winter Retreat

***The New City Catechism** was developed by Tim Keller at Redeemer New York and The Gospel Coalition. There are 52 questions and answers which are based on and adapted from Calvin's Geneva Catechism, the Westminster Shorter and Larger Catechisms, and the Heidelberg Catechism.

***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.

- Pray for Cassie Frame's grandfather, Bob, who is in the hospital with Covid. Pray for her grandmother, Gladys, and cousin Robert, who are at home with Covid. Pray for a quick recovery for all.
- Pray for Daisy Roth's Aunt Anita, who is hospitalized with Covid and pneumonia. Pray for rest and regaining strength. Praise God she is saved.
- Pray for Marcie Nettleton, who had a heart attack .Marci will be going to Abington. She still has blocked arteries but the blood clot issue needs to be resolved first. Pray for healing.
- Pray for Joe Durant's family, friends of Mike and Mary Row. Joe passed away on November 15th. Pray for strength for his family through this time of sorrow.
- Praise that Eric Yensan's cousin, Ryan, his wife, and their new baby, Aubrey, are all home and doing well. Pray for salvation through Jesus Christ for this family.
- Pray for Ashley Adams, who had surgery at Brandywine Hospital on November 26th for a dislocated knee. Pray for relief from pain and healing for Ashley.
- Pray for Rindy Lee's sister's family. Rindy's nephew, Jim, may have kidney cancer. Rindy's sister, Liz, has lost movement in her right arm. Rindy's niece, Beth and her family are recovering from Covid. Praise that all have faith in Jesus.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins' nephew, Evan James, who has a very rare disease, CDA. Pray for healing for Evan and wisdom for his doctors.
- Praise that Jill Aument's cousin, Craig, is doing much better! Greg Aument is spending time with Craig, which is a great help for Craig.
- Praise that Austin, stepson of Lorraine Blanski's niece, is home with his family! Thank you for all your prayers and support. Pray for Austin as he navigates his surroundings and his new life.
- Pray for Lorraine Blanski's sister-in-law Kathy, who is back in the hospital. Kathy still is not eating, and the doctors don't have any answers. Pray for God's healing and wisdom for her doctors.
- Pray for Denny Bartchak. Denny fell and broke an arm and fractured his jaw. Pray for healing from this accident and that he will be able to have the procedure to get the results of his cancer treatments.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker. Pray for healing for Justine through her chemotherapy treatment.

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Galatians 4:1–7 (ESV)

I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, ²but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. ³In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. ⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Introduction

Of all the texts in the New Testament that talk about the Advent of Jesus Christ, Galatians 4:4-5 is one of the richest. In just two verses, the apostle Paul provides a remarkable summary of the Christian faith, including the importance of the advent of Jesus Christ. Galatians 4:4-5 is “one of the most compressed and highly charged passages in the entire letter because they present the objective basis, the Christological and soteriological foundation, for the doctrine of justification by faith.”¹

1. A Supernatural Intervention

God sent forth his Son.” It is a very succinct summary of the gospel – that God would send His Son as the means of spiritual intervention for people who could not save themselves.

2. A Human Connection

3. Born of a woman” and “born under the law.” Both of these are directly tied to the humanity of Jesus

4. A Redemptive Purpose

Jesus lived under the same rules that every other human experienced and yet never sinned. Not once. He fully obeyed. And because He lived