

**Crossing Cultures International**  
**David and Mindy Nelson**



**INDIA**

Praise God for the six graduations that took place in September and October 2021. The students' hard work and diligence paid off. Please pray that these graduates will go on to make more disciples for Christ and raise up godly leaders in churches.

**INDONESIA**

With the increasing number of teachers in West Sulawesi, CCI Indonesia needs a qualified person to become a coordinator in that area. Pray that God will raise up the right person for that responsibility.

**MYANMAR**

Praise God for the creative ways that our staff has found to promote the CCI Ministry in Myanmar: Rev. M was able to minister and share CCI to two churches while hiding in the jungle for over five months by using CCI materials.

**Tim and Holly Howden**

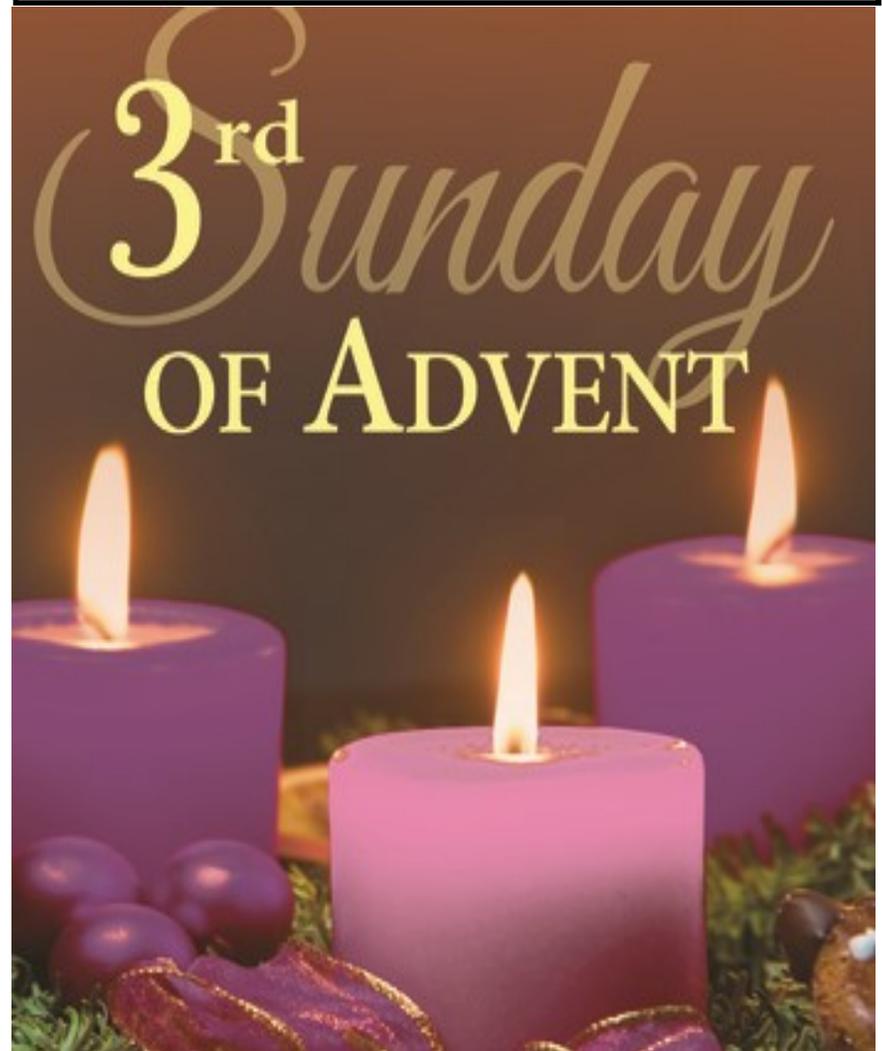
- Praise God for working in powerful ways in lives at Fall Conference.
- Pray for the young man who expressed interest in the Gospel and received a Bible. Pray that he sees the truth and believes it.
- Pray for a young man at Kutztown University who has a growing vision for discipling students there.



December 12, 2021

10:30 A.M.

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**



# Order of Service

Announcements

Missions Report

Welcome

Preparation for Worship

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

Call To Worship

Hymn of Adoration: "Christmas Offering" . . . . . Paul Baloche

Prayer of Invocation

Affirmation of Faith: The Heidelberg Catechism\*

Advent Hymn: "Prepare Him Room" . . . . . Rita Baloche

Lighting of Advent Wreath\* — the Angels' Candle

Song of Praise

"Angels from the Realms of Glory". . . . . Montgomery/Smart

Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

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

Understanding Ourselves Rightly

Public Confession

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: 1 John 1:5, 9

Song of Renewal: "Welcome to Our World". . . . . Chris Rice

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

Scripture Reading: *Luke 2:8–20 (ESV)*

Prayer

The Sermon

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

Hymn: "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing". . . . . Wesley/Mendelssohn

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Approach

Holy Communion

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

Parting Hymn: "Angels we Have Heard on High" . . . . . Traditional

Benediction

## God's Gracious Provision 12/5/2021

Attendance: 46

Offering: \$4940.00

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

## Craving Favor? Aching for Peace?

"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:13–14

Heavenly Father, fine dark chocolate isn't to be consumed mindlessly like popcorn. It's to be slowly savored—relishing the flavor, texture, nuances, aroma, making room for a closed-eyed smile and something that sounds like "Ummm."

How much more so should this be the case with the greatest of all delicacies—the Gospel? Jesus himself, and everything he has done for us, deserves our unrushed, awe-producing relishing and treasuring.

Through the Gospel, the angel's declaration has become our celebration. "Peace to those on whom his favor rests." How do we measure the peace that comes from knowing we now live in your full, permanent, unwavering favor?

We invest tons of heart-energy seeking favor—wanting to be desired, known, and loved. Our spouses, friends, children, "dates," and bosses feel the pull of our relational cravings. But mere people cannot possibly fill the favor-vacuum or satisfy the peace-ache inside us.

That's where Jesus comes in, quite literally—into our world, into brokenness, into our longings. In Jesus we are fully known and completely loved. He is the "joy of every longing heart."

Because Jesus took our disfavor and disgrace on the cross, we now live in your endless favor and limitless grace. "O, come let us adore Him," indeed. So very Amen we pray, worship, and dance, in Jesus' great and gracious name.



—An Advent Prayer by Scotty Smith

## ***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

*Hark the herald angels sing  
“Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled”  
Joyful, all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With the angelic host proclaim:  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem”  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
“Glory to the newborn King!”*

*Christ by highest heav’n adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of a Virgin’s womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see*

*Hail the incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with man to dwell  
Jesus, our Emmanuel  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
“Glory to the newborn King!”*

*Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings  
Ris’n with healing in His wings  
Mild He lays His glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give them second birth  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
“Glory to the newborn King!”*

Will you Stop and Listen? Are you ready to Listen to the Voice of God?  
*“Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die, born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth!”*

The gospel is that you and I were doomed, and Jesus came to save you. Underneath all your religious, good, moral make---up you’re really just a rebellious sinner... Every other religion teaches you that you can save yourself. If you are good enough, do enough religious observances, you’ll be saved.

But Jesus taught we couldn’t save ourselves, so he did, if we’ll receive him...

*John 14:6 (ESV)*  
*Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

What did the Shepherds do when they heard the Angels? Luke 2 says that they worshipped. Will you worship the Savior of the World this Christmas? What will your worship look like in your life? What evidence will there be that you are seeing Jesus for who He truly is?

The outline of today’s sermon borrows from an article from First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Mississippi.

## **Upcoming Events**

**Sunday, December 12 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.

**Tuesday, December 14 6:30-8 P.M. Youth Group** will meet at the home of the Deicherts.

**Saturday, December 18 8:00 A.M Men’s Breakfast** at the home of Pastor Rick

**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 18-19 Men’s Retreat**  
**February 25-27 Youth Winter Retreat**

**Everyone is invited to join with the elders in prayer every Sunday from 9:30-10:00 A.M.**

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**\*The Heidelberg Catechism** originated in Germany in 1562 under the authority of Elector Frederick III, who ruled the most important German province, the Palatinate, from his castle in Heidelberg. He commissioned the preparation of a new catechism for guiding ministers and teachers in instructing people in the Christian faith.

**\*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. . . . .December 5, 2021

- Pray for Bob, Gladys, and Robert Frame as they recover from COVID.
- Pray for Daisy Roth's Aunt Anita, who is doing much better and down to 2L of oxygen. She is doing PT to regain strength. Praise God she is saved.
- Pray for Ashley Adams, who had surgery at Brandywine Hospital on November 26<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Pray for Austin, stepson of Lorraine Blanski's niece. Pray for strength and a positive outlook with PT and fitting for his prostheses. Pray for Austin as he navigates his surroundings and his new life.
- Pray for Lorraine Blanski's sister-in-law Kathy, who is still in the hospital. Kathy had two serious surgeries but still is not eating. Kathy is now breathing on her own. Pray for God's healing and wisdom for her doctors. Pray for salvation for Lorraine's brother and sister-in-law.
- 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.

## Message

### Hark! The Herald Angels Sing The Messengers and the Message

*Luke 2:8–20 (ESV)*

*And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" <sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.*

#### Introduction

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing, written by Charles Wesley, one of the many hundreds of carols that he wrote, is one of the best hymns ever written. It's reckoned by many hymnologists to be among the three or four best hymns ever written. On Sunday, May 21, 1738, after reading Martin Luther's commentary on Galatians, Charles was converted. He testified, "I now found myself at peace with God, and rejoiced in hope of loving Christ...I saw that by faith I stood; by the continual support of faith." "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing' is ... thought to have been written approximately one year after Wesley's dramatic...conversion experience of 1738." The tune for the carol, which we are familiar with, is called "Mendelssohn" and was written by "one of the master composers of the early nineteenth century, Felix Mendelssohn.