



Series: The Bethlehem Candle

God Working Good in All Things

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

- Romans 8:28

"The Son of God, who is God of the universe, is born a human being in the flesh. He permits himself to be placed in a manger, and the heavens are within the manger. He is kept in a cradle, a cradle that the world cannot hold." -Chromatius

"The man who has God and everything else has no more than the man who has God only." -C.S. Lewis

"He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found"
- Isaac Watts

"The Incarnation bids us to remember that just as Bethlehem was a particular city with particular significance, and we likewise live our lives in the confines of a particular place. . . . the reality of our embodied nature is that we simply cannot be everywhere all at once. In our own historical moment, when time and opportunity and biology are seemingly more adaptable than ever, this rootedness to place can help orient us in the midst of complex and ever-changing choices."

- Kate Harris

order of worship

prelude

Leader: The Lord be with you

People: and also with you

call to worship from Psalm 8:1-4

Leader:

O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
Out of the mouth of babies and infants,
you have established strength because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.
When I look at the heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
what is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?

song of praise

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 th'angelic hosts 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 the Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail th'incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men 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 Sun 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

lighting of the advent candle

video "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

welcome & update

prayer for the world, the church & the city

confession

Our gracious and merciful Father, when we look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have been faithful to us and blessed us; You have protected us and cared for us. But Lord, forgive us, for when life gets messy we have often questioned Your love for us. We are so quick to doubt; we imagine You are distant; we worry over answers that we want so desperately from You but have not yet received. We predict future outcomes based on the facts as we see them; our imaginations are prone to fear rather than trust. Righteous Father, increase our faith daily to know Your love for us. Help us in our weakness; be our refuge and our strength, our great helper in times of trouble. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from all kinds of evil, we pray in Jesus' name.

private confession

assurance of pardon: Hebrews 4:15-16

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

song of assurance

The Robe

The Anyone whose heart is cold and lonely,
Anyone who can't believe,
Anyone whose hands are worn and empty
Come as you are.

Anyone whose feet are tired of walking
And even lost their will to run;
There is a place of rest for your aching soul
Come as you are.

For the robe is of God
That will clothe your nakedness
And the robe is His grace
It's all you need –
Come as you are.

Anyone who feels that they're unworthy,

Anyone who's just afraid,
Come sinner, come, and receive His mercy
Come as you are

tithes and offerings

doxology

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

scripture reading : Luke 2:1-7

Reader: The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God

God's Word Today Mike Hsu
Sermon : God Working Good in All Things

Sermon Outline:
1. The Greater Story
2. Despite the Lowliest of Circumstances
3. Significance of Place and the Heart of God

song of thanksgiving

Joy to the World
Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
Heaven and nature sing
Let heaven and nature sing
Let heaven and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

Hear the joyful sound of our offering
As Your saints bow down as Your people sing
We will rise with You lifted on Your wings
And the world will see that

Our God saves our God saves
There is hope in Your name
Mourning turns to songs of praise
Our God saves our God saves

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found

Far as the curse is found
Far as far as the curse is found

You rule the world with truth and grace
And make the nations prove
The glories of Your righteousness
The wonders of Your love
The wonders of Your love
The wonders wonders of Your love

Benediction: 2 Corinthians 13:14
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Peace

Minister: The Peace of the Lord be with you all
People: And also with you

Tithes up to November 30 2020
Yearly Budget \$355,000
Budget Year to Date \$325,416
Actual Giving Year to Date \$262,668
Actual Giving Last Week \$ 3,650

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music permission by
CCLI# 1823266

GRACE VANCOUVER CHURCH

'A worshipping people' - **Upward**



Worship: we come together corporately to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ
The Word: we submit ourselves to the Bible as our rule for faith and life
Generosity: having received from divine generosity, we overflow with generosity to the world

Upward

'transformed by the peace of God in Christ,' - **Inward**



Sacramental Life: our participation in the sacraments of bread and wine flow into our everyday lives
The Holy Spirit: living by the Spirit, we use His gifts to build the church and bless Vancouver
Prayerful Presence: we intercede for our homes, neighbourhoods and networks, for God to do His work

Inward

'seeking to be faithful stewards of the Kingdom.' - **Outward**



Covenantal Commitments: we covenant with one another to uphold, support and love one another.
Priestly Work: we see all of life as calling (as "vocatio")
Proclamation: we proclaim the Cross of Christ as the accomplishment of God's Kingdom for the world

Outward