

### Reflection

The God of power, as he did ride  
In his majestic robes of glory  
Resolv'd to light; and so one day  
He did descend, undressing all the way  
— George Herbert

### Prelude

*As worship begins, please silence your electronic devices.*

### Call To Worship

Psalm 126

Minister: The Lord has done great things for us!

**People: And we are filled with joy!**

Minister: Our God has turned our weeping into singing, our tears into songs of joy!

**People: O Messiah, come anew in our hearts this day, and remain in us forever!**

### Prayer of Invocation

### Song

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light. (Refrain)

The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth (Refrain)

Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born,  
And brought us God's salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Shepherds' Candle

*Isaiah 61:1-4*

*Luke 1:46-55*

Reader: We light the third candle of Advent, the Shepherds' Candle. We light these candles to remind us that Jesus is the Light of the world. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Doxology

Old Hundredth

Praise God whose light fills all the earth  
Whose love we see in Jesus' birth  
Whose Spirit forms one family  
Whose grace brings peace and harmony. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the pattern of this world and the desires of our hearts. We have broken your holy laws. We have left undone those things that we ought to have done, and we have done those things that we ought not to have done. There is no health in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Restore to us the joy of your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills and rest to our souls, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Silent Confession

Song

How Great Our Joy!

While by the sheep I watched at night,  
Glad tidings brought an angel bright.

Refrain:  
How great our joy! Great our joy!  
Joy, joy joy!  
Joy, joy joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!  
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

There shall be born, so he did say,  
In Bethlehem a Child today. (Refrain)

There shall the Child lie in a stall,  
This Child who shall redeem us all. (Refrain)

This gift of God we'll cherish well,  
That ever joy our hearts shall fill. (Refrain)

Words of Pardon and Comfort

Colossians 1:11-14

May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Song

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down,  
And glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he—for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind—  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind.

"To you in David's town this day,  
Is born of David's line,  
The Saviour, who is Christ, the Lord,  
And this shall be the sign.

"The heav'nly Babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
And in a manger laid."

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high,

And to the earth be peace:  
Goodwill henceforth, from heav'n to men,  
Begin and never cease!"

Pastoral Prayer (Concluded by the Lord's Prayer)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

High Desert Highlights

See 'Announcements' on page 15

Offertory

Scripture

Colossians 1:24-2:5

[24] Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, [25] of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, [26] the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. [27] To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the

riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. [28] Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. [29] For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

[1] For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, [2] that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, [3] in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. [4] I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. [5] For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

Sermon:  
Rose

Rev. Daniel

“The Centrality of the Church”  
Jesus is All We Need: The Book of Colossians

## Sermon Notes



Song:

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,  
Opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,  
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee,  
Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Singing bird and flowing fountain  
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blessed,  
Wellspring of the joy of living,  
Ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,

All who live in love are Thine;  
Teach us how to love each other,  
Lift us to the joy divine.  
Mortals, join the happy chorus,  
Which the morning stars began;  
Father love is reigning over us,  
Brother love binds man to man.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
Victors in the midst of strife,  
Joyful music leads us Sunward  
In the triumph song of life.

#### Celebration of the Lord's Supper

*This is a time for all people to seek the Lord. For Christians, the Lord's Supper (also called Communion 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 the bread and drink the elements. All baptized 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 (see Prayers on page 14) 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. Both wine (red) and grape juice (white) are offered in each serving tray.*

Words of Institution

Minister: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!**

Minister: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**All: Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion Song

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

Thou dost reign on high with a kingly crown,  
Yet thou camest to earth for me,  
And in Bethlehem's home was there found no room  
For thy holy nativity:  
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,  
There is room in my heart for thee.

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,  
Proclaiming thy royal degree;  
But of lowly birth didst thou come to earth,  
And in great humility:  
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,  
There is room in my heart for thee.

The foxes found rest, and the birds their nest,  
In the shade of the forest tree;  
But thy couch was the sod,  
O thou Son of God, in the deserts of Galilee:  
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,  
There is room in my heart for thee.

Thou camest, O Lord, with the living word  
That should set thy people free;  
But with mocking scorn, and with crown of thorn,  
They bore thee to Calvary:  
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,  
Thy cross is my only plea.

When heav'n's arches shall ring,  
And her choirs shall sing,  
At thy coming to victory,  
Let thy voice call me home,  
Saying, "Yet there is room,  
There is room at my side for thee."  
And my heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus,  
When thou comest and callest for me.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Gracious God, Jesus is the center point of history, and his presence is our new beginning. Center our lives on your lavish grace that not only saves but renews us to be like Jesus. May our godly living be a fitting testimony of thanksgiving that draws others to the joyful reign of Christ the King. Amen.**

Benediction

Postlude

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## Prayers

*Prayer for Those Searching for Truth:* Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

*Prayer of Belief:* Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin:* Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the Pioneer and Perfecter of my faith. Amen.

*Prayer of Commitment:* Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

### Announcements

#### WORSHIP

Next Sunday we will gather for worship at 10am at DRMS. Pastor Dan's sermon text will be Colossians 2:6-15.

Our Christmas Eve Worship service will be at DRMS on Thursday, December 24 at 4pm. Please invite your family and friends as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!

#### NURTURE

Save the date: HDPC's Christmas Party will be Sunday, December 20. More details to come soon.

#### WITNESS

'Holiday in a box' is HDPC's way of providing Christmas gifts to an underprivileged family in the DRMS community. Gifts can be dropped off at the Roses', but no later than this Tuesday. See Carrie (505.697.8169) for details.

Serving today

Greeters: Rocky and Flo Wilson  
Children's Church: Bob and Pam Clark

Serving next week

Greeters: The Rose family  
Children's Church: Carrie Rose and Caleb Rose