

Sunday Gathering

Ruth, Ruth 1:15-18 - Robbie Gouge

December 11, 2022

Advent: The Mothers of Jesus

**Length
in mins**

**Audio/
Visual Band Person Vocals**

0:00 Call to Worship - Romans 5:12, 15

As we gather for worship today, consider this joyous reality: before God even spoke the world into being, the line of Jesus Christ had already been written. The first man and woman, Adam and Eve, were born in perfection. They were free to enjoy the world of beauty God had created, free to co-create beauty with him, to fill the earth with his glory. But that beauty became broken when they fell into the temptation of the serpent.

Yet even in their sin, God's plan was written and ready. Through their beautiful and broken children, one generation at a time, came the greatest child of all. He was born in perfection, but born into an imperfect world. He came not to fall into the temptation of the serpent, but to crush his power forever!

Paul writes this in the book of Romans,

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. Romans 5:12, 15

So in this third week of advent, let us rejoice in God's victory for us! For this reason the candle we light today represents joy. Its pink color stands out from the other candles, just as joy stands out in a broken world.

Let's let our joy stand out this morning, church! The line of Jesus is open to broken and ordinary people—all who come by faith!

0:00 *O Come All Ye Faithful* [King's Kaleidoscope in A]

0:00 Confession - Isaiah 53:2-3, 12

Have you ever found yourself deep in the weight of your struggle, asking God for something miraculous? Why is that?

God's love often feels greater to us when it's displayed through great acts of power. It is those acts that we pray for and that we look for as a means of steadying our faith. Yet, when no great miracle comes, and instead we only see small glimpses of God's daily mercies in the ordinary and mundane of life, we often feel cheated and abandoned. We accuse God of not answering our prayers and failing to give us what we need.

Here these words from Isaiah 53:

he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Isaiah 53:2b-3

Sometimes God displays his power in unexpected ways. God sent his Son not as a great handsome ruler who shot lightning bolts from his eyes. He was born into an ordinary life, with an ordinary body, and ordinary struggles. Yet time and time again through Jesus, God made all his glory known.

So take a moment now to consider how your ordinary life, with an ordinary body, and ordinary struggles is actually a container for God's glory. [brief pause]

Isaiah's description of Jesus ends with this good news for ordinary sinners. Let's say it together:

****yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.**** Isaiah 53:12

Amen!

0:00 *Christ Our Hope In Life And Death* [Default Arrangement in F]

0:00 *Joy Has Dawned (Boyce)* [Default Arrangement in F]

0:00 Sermon - Ruth 1:15-18

0:00 Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

0:00 *Behold the Christ (Sojourn)* [Default in D]

0:00 *Hark The Herald Angels Sing (Norton Hall)* [C-D in C]

0:00 Benediction - Ruth 4:13-17

You may be seated. Thank you for joining us in today's gathering! We hope that you have experienced the welcome of Jesus.

Family Groups - We invite you to visit one of our Family Groups, which meet in homes throughout the week in order for us to grow in the context of deep relationships. If you would like to join one of them, there is info in the hallway, or talk with one of us, and we'll make a direct connection for you.

Giving & Visitors - Also, now is our time for giving—ushers, please come forward. If you are a visitor with us this morning, please grab a visitor card from the basket so we can get to know you more. You can give it to someone with a lanyard or leave it in your seat; the pen is yours to keep.

Antioch members, remember that giving is part of how we participate in God's mission. If you prefer to give digitally, visit our website or find us on GivApp.

Announcements

For everyone, here are a few ways to take the following steps:

1) MCT Prayer Calendars - They are now available for purchase! You can see _____ in the back following the gathering. We can take credit or debit care as well.

2) Christmas Needs in Food Pantry - As part of December's Food Pantry we are gathering two kinds of items in order to bless our neighbors:

First, we are collecting new toys. These can be books, puzzles, figurines, cars, dolls, etc., for various ages. They don't have to be expensive, but they do need to be new and unwrapped.

Second, we are collecting used coats and winter accessories. These can be in both children and adult sizes.

Please bring any toys or winter items and place them in the designated bins in the kitchen by no later than Fri, December 16th.

3) Family Meeting - Our annual December Family Meeting will take place tonight at 6:00 PM. Just a reminder, this is for Antioch covenant members only. There will be food and childcare. Please consider bringing a dessert. Also, this can take the place of family groups that week, so facilitators, please plan accordingly. Finally, we need a few folks afterward to help us begin setting up in the back.

We begin each gathering with a call to worship, and we end with a benediction, which is simply a reminder that we are blessed to be a blessing.

Church, even in the ordinary and mundane of life, God miraculously supplies us with all that we need in the Person of Jesus Christ. May you go today like Ruth, following God into each space he calls you, and rejoicing in the coming of his chosen Son. Based on Ruth 4:13-17

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

WE ARE SENT