

Sunday Gathering

God's inviting Glory, Luke
2:1-21 - Robbie

December 24, 2023

Behold Our God

Call to Worship

Good morning and Merry Christmas! Our prayer for you this morning is that you've found rest and peace this Advent season. Today is the 5th Sunday of Advent and our tradition here at Antioch is to light candles that each represent a theme of Advent. The last candle represents Christ as the brightest revelation of God's love for us!

Hear this call to worship based on John 1, Philippians 2, and Colossians 1 and join me in the underlined portions.

Christ Jesus, who, being in very nature God,
Did not consider equality with God something to be grasped.
He made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.
The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.
We have seen his glory,
The glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Let's join together in song as we worship our King!

Joy Has Dawned (Boyce)

Confession

Christmas Eve has come quickly for us this year. Let's be honest with ourselves for a moment and take an account of our hearts. It was hard to prepare for Advent this year. Many of us have forgotten how to have true hope. How to believe in the miracles of God. How to ignore the promises of his coming Kingdom. It's so easy to be distracted by the struggles of the year. Take a moment of silence now before the Lord and confess how your heart has lacked in preparation for Advent this year.

As you raise your eyes let's say this together:
Forgive us, O God.

We reflect on our time of confession by joining together in this proclamation of the Christmas story - the reason we celebrate!

Remembering the promise to reconcile the world to himself,
God joined our humanity in Jesus Christ - the eternal Word made flesh!
He is the long-awaited Messiah, one with us and one with God,
Fully human and fully divine,
Conceived by the Holy Spirit
And born of the virgin Mary.
Being both divine and human,
Jesus is the only mediator.
He alone paid the debt of our sin;
There is no other Savior!
Jesus Christ rules over all.
To follow the Lord is to serve him wherever we are,
Light in the darkness.
Salt in a spoiling world.

King Of Kings

He Shall Reign Forevermore

Sermon - Luke 2:1-21

Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

Baby Son

Joy To The World

Benediction

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. We describe them as "intentional environments to be transformed by the gospel through 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.

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) We are sell our 2024 MCT calendars today. \$10/each and we take cash, check, and card. Please check the table in the back to get yours today before they are all gone.

2) Christmas Eve service tonight at 5pm It will be a time of music, joy, and remembering the gift of Christ being born.

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

Hear this prayer as our benediction to you today:

God of all grace,
You who have sent your Son to be our Redeemer,
To give light in our darkness,
Pardon for our sins,
And hope in our turmoil,
Accept now our hearty thanks for your Word.
We have met our Savior here;
We know your promises are true,
And our hearts have been nourished!
Send us forth to live obediently until we gather again in his name.
Amen.

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

You are sent.
