

Sunday Gathering

Rahab, Joshua 2:1-21, 6:17,
21-25 - Bradley Bell

November 27, 2022

Advent: The Mothers of Jesus

**Length
in mins**

**Audio/
Visual Band Person Vocals**

0:00 Call to Worship - Isaiah 2:2-5

At Antioch, we have a tradition of lighting Advent candles as a way of tangibly picturing the light of Jesus Christ coming into the darkness of our world. That is precisely what advent means. We are celebrating the first arrival of Christ into the world through the incarnation, and we are also awaiting his return. Just like when we take communion, we are looking back and looking forward at the same time. This Sunday, we will light the first candle of Advent which symbolizes hope or expectation.

Hear this word from the prophet Isaiah:

2 It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the Lord
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,

3 and many peoples shall come, and say:
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

4 He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.

Church, as we both look back and look forward together, let's speak verse 5 to one another:

**5 O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord.**
Isaiah 2:2-5

0:00 *His Mercy Is More* [Default Arrangement in E]

0:00 *O Great God* [Default Arrangement in C]

0:00 Confession - Romans 13:10-14; Psalm 145:18

In Romans 13 Paul writes these words:

10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. 11 Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. 12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Romans 13:10-14

As we will hear later in our gathering, one of the mothers listed in the genealogy of Jesus is Rahab. The Bible does not shy away from the reality of her sinfulness—five times it makes reference to her as “the prostitute”. But this is not in order to defame her so that we feel better about ourselves. It is to exalt the wonder working power of God's abundant grace. It is this grace that awakened Rahab's faith to cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Like Rahab, take a moment to silently admit your own need for God's abundant grace. [brief pause]

Fellow sinners, take these words to heart from Psalm 145:18:

The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

0:00 *O Come O Come Emmanuel* [Default Arrangement in Cm]

0:00 **Sermon - Joshua 2:1-21, 6:17, 21-25**

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

0:00 *Baby Son* [Default Arrangement in A]

0:00 *Doxology* [Default Arrangement in E]

0:00 Benediction - 2 Corinthians 13:14

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 - Missionary Care Team is this Thursday at the Groce's home at 7pm. Also, the 2023 MCT prayer calendars are in and will be ready for purchase starting next Sunday.

2) Women's Christmas Brunch - Antioch Women, the annual women's Christmas brunch, will be on Saturday, December 10th, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. See the Antioch Family Facebook page for food sign-up and more info. This year's gift exchange will be a mug swap.

3) Family Meeting - Our annual December Family Meeting for Antioch members will take place on Sunday evening, December 11th. This will take the place of family groups that week, so facilitators, please plan accordingly.

4) 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.

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, though we all stand in need like Rahab, we have a Savior who exercised perfect faith and works in our place. Therefore may you go into a land of disobedience as strong and courageous vessels of God's abundant grace.

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