

Magnifying and Glorifying Jesus, the Only Way to Life!

PRELUDE *Festival March* on "Masters in This Hall" by Dennis Bergin

Dennis Bergin, organ

He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. Magnificat, Luke 1:51 (KJV)

Masters in this hall, hear ye news today.
Brought from over sea and ever I you pray
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell sing we clear!
Holpen are all folk on Earth, born is God's Son so dear
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell sing we loud
God today hath poor folk raised and cast a-down the proud.
This is Christ the Lord, masters be ye glad
Christmas is come in, and no man should be sad.

Text: William Morris, 1860

Tune: French Carol, early 18th century

WELCOME

Reverend Dr. Russell St. John, Lead Pastor

ADVENT BELL TOLLING

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE John 1:1-5, 9-13, 14, 16-18; 14:1-6

Reverend David Barnes, Associate Pastor

The Stout Family

Pastor: Today, we light The Christ Candle.

Clark: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Rachel: The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

- Hunter:** He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
- Ariana:** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.
- Cole:** [Jesus said,] "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going."
- Kailah:** Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

***HAIL, HAIL THE WORD MADE FLESH! NO. 213** *What Child Is This*
 Prudence Barker, Julia Teves, violin; Bob Nagy, cello; Charis Baker, flute;
 Holly Henske, clarinet; Nicole Lesh, bass clarinet; April Northington, tenor sax;
 Will Barker, trombone; Carrie Smith, piano; Matt Brantley, bass;
 Greg Wagener, drums; Nathanael Zanders, timpani

***GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP** Psalm 24:7-10

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O gates!

People: And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Pastor: Who is this King of glory?

People: The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O gates!

People: And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Pastor: Who is this King of glory?

People: The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!

***THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD IS HERE! NO. 198** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!*

***WE INVOKE HIS PRESENCE**

GOD EXPOSES OUR NEED Galatians 3:10-12

Reverend Dr. Russell St. John

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.”

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

CHRIST PROVIDES FOR OUR NEED Galatians 3:13

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.”

***FAR AS THE CURSE IS FOUND! NO. 195** *Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*

***GOD REVEALS THE JUSTICE AND MERCY OF GOD IN CHRIST!** Belgic Confession Article 20

Pastor: Christians, what do you believe?

People: We believe that God—who is perfectly merciful and also very just—sent the Son to assume the nature in which the disobedience had been committed, in order to bear in it the punishment of sin by his most bitter passion and death. So God made known his justice toward his Son, who was charged with our sin, and he poured out his goodness and mercy on us, who are guilty and worthy of damnation, giving to us his Son to die, by a most perfect love, and raising him to life for our justification, in order that by him we might have immortality and eternal life.

***WITH WILLING FEET EVER SEEK THY MERCY SEAT! NO. 226**

As with Gladness Men of Old

WE INVOKE HIS HELP Psalm 22:23

You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

GOD CALLS US TO STEWARDSHIP 2 Corinthians 8:9

You know the grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

WE GIVE OUR GRATEFUL OFFERINGS

WE PREPARE FOR GOD’S WORD *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion from “Messiah”*
Kyrstan Brantley, soprano; Prudence Barker, violin; Carrie Smith, keyboard

Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice greatly, rejoice, O daughter of Zion!
O daughter of Zion! Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice!
O daughter of Zion, rejoice greatly, shout, O daughter of Jerusalem:
Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, behold thy King cometh unto thee,
Cometh unto thee;

He is the righteous Savior, and he shall speak peace unto the heathen,
He shall speak peace, he shall speak peace, peace,
He shall speak peace unto the heathen.
He is the righteous Savior, and he shall speak, he shall speak peace, peace,
He shall speak peace unto the heathen.

Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice greatly, rejoice, greatly,
O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, rejoice, rejoice and shout,
Shout, shout, shout, rejoice greatly,
Rejoice, greatly O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem,
Behold, thy King cometh unto, behold, thy King cometh unto thee.

Words: Zechariah 9:9-10; Music: G.F. Handel; ©1993 Roger Dean Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net #A-715258.

GOD PROCLAIMS HIS WORD	Reverend Dr. Russell St. John Lead Pastor
SERMON SERIES	“Magnify! Glorify!”
SCRIPTURE TEXTS	Isaiah 55:1 & Revelation 21:6 Pages 615 & 1041 in the pew Bible
SERMON TITLE	<i>Life Without Cost</i>

***CHRIST WAS BORN TO SAVE! No. 207** *Good Christian Men, Rejoice*

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** *Reprise: Good Christian Men, Rejoice*

Life Without Cost

Reverend Dr. Russell St. John, Lead Pastor

Isaiah 55:1 & Revelation 21:6 | Pages 615 & 1041 in the pew Bible

Why must you come to the LORD for life?

1. He promised life without cost

2. He provides life without cost

*Congregation please rise

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