

And the Glory of the Lord Shall Be Revealed

And so it was that the Lord of all creation, the one who must stoop even to look upon the heavens and the earth (Ps 113:6), stooped down from heaven to take the form of a servant. He created his own mother, and then before all the angels the Father sent forth his great Son.

The apostle Paul wrote that Christ Jesus "emptied himself" in taking the form of a servant, but it shouldn't be thought that he who was in very nature God emptied some *thing* out of himself, somehow un-Godding himself. He did not empty himself of anything he was: he emptied *himself*, humbling himself to be God with us in the form of a baby. The One on high became low, the Creator became a creature, the Word became speechless, the very power of God became a helpless fetus.

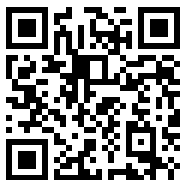
"Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple," Malachi had prophesied (Mal 3:1); and here he was. How faithful old Simeon must have reeled and gasped that day in the temple when he held this one, his Lord, in his arms! For here was the one who belonged in the Holy of Holies. The one high priests trembled to approach was there in the flesh, now with and alongside his people forever. No wonder the world seemed so full of the demon-possessed in those days: all hell had been summoned to take up arms against the great prince of heaven. No wonder the Gospels record so many who were amazed and astonished by him, as if they were witnesses to a volcano: his presence was an apocalypse, a cataclysm, an earth-shaking upheaval of all things. God with us!

- Michael Reeves, *Rejoicing in Christ*

Events

TODAY Hawfields 3 PM
12/28 Thanksgiving
Testimonies 7:15 PM
1/7 Men's Prayer 7:30 AM
1/7 Ladies' Missionary
Society 9:00 AM
1/8 College & Career
Dinner 7:00 PM

Give



Upcoming Events



GRACE
REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

Service Times

- Sunday School 9:30 am
- Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
- Sunday Evening Worship 5:30 pm
- Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm



GRACE
REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

Loving God, one another, and the world through the gospel of Jesus Christ

December 25, 2016

**Tenemos
disponible
traducción al
español
durante los
servicios de la
mañana y de la
tarde**



Pastors

Gary Hendrix
Charles Fortner
Stu Johnston
Andy Dunkerton
Stephen Byrd
Robert Fisher
Bob Prentice

919-563-9249
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For information on devices for the hearing-impaired, please ask an usher.

Morning Worship

Call to Worship **Pastor Andy Dunkerton**

Opening Hymn **#149 Joy to the World**

Scripture Reading **Luke 2:1-20, page 857**

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory **What Child is This**

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through; the cross He bore for me, for you:
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to crown Him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Traditional English Carol, adapted by William C. Dix, ca. 1865

Preparatory

Immanuel

From the squalor of a borrowed stable by the Spirit and a virgin's faith
To the anguish and the shame of scandal came the Savior of the human race
But the skies were filled with the praise of heaven
Shepherds listen as the angels tell of the Gift of God come down to man
At the dawning of Immanuel

King of heaven now the Friend of sinners
Humble servant in the Father's hands
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit filled with mercy for the broken man
Yes, He walked my road and He felt my pain
Joys and sorrows that I know so well
Yet His righteous steps give me hope again –
I will follow my Immanuel

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal he was lifted on a cruel cross
He was punished for a world's transgressions
He was suffering to save the lost
He fights for breath, he fights for me
Loosing sinners from the claims of hell
And with a shout, our souls are free –
Death defeated by Immanuel.

Now He's standing in the place of honor
Crowned with glory on the highest throne
Interceding for His own beloved till His Father calls to bring them home!

Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds

Hope of heaven or the fear of hell

But the Bride will run to her Lover's arms

Giving glory to Immanuel! (repeat)

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There is a Redeemer

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

**(Chorus) Thank You, oh, my Father, for giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.**

Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, O for sinners slain. **(Chorus)**

When I stand in Glory, I will see His face,
There I'll serve my King forever in that holy place. **(Chorus 2x)**

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Sermon

Pastor Gary Hendrix