

*In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. (Luke 2:1-5)*

Have you ever thought what an amazing thing it is that God ordained beforehand that the Messiah be born in Bethlehem (as the prophecy in Micah 5:2 shows); and that he so ordained things that when the time came, the Messiah's mother and legal father were living not in Bethlehem but in Nazareth; and that in order to fulfill his word and bring two unheard-of, insignificant, little people to Bethlehem that first Christmas, God put it in the heart of Caesar Augustus that all the Roman world should be enrolled each in his own town? A decree for the entire world in order to move two people seventy miles!

Have you ever felt, like me, little and insignificant in a world of seven billion people, where all the news is about big political and economic and social movements and outstanding people with global

significance and lots of power and prestige?

If you have, don't let that make you disheartened or unhappy. For it is implicit in Scripture that all the mammoth political forces and all the giant industrial complexes, without their even knowing it, are being guided by God, not for their own sake, but for the sake of God's little people — the little Mary and the little Joseph who have to be got from Nazareth to Bethlehem. God wields an empire to fulfill his word and bless his children.

Do not think, because you experience adversity in your little world of experience, that the hand of the Lord is shortened. It is not our prosperity or our fame but our holiness that he seeks with all his heart. And to that end, he rules the whole world. As Proverbs 21:1 says, "The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will." And he is always turning it for his saving and sanctifying and eternal purposes among his people.

He is a big God for little people, and we have great cause to rejoice that, unbeknownst to them, all the kings and presidents and premiers and chancellors and chiefs of the world follow the sovereign decrees of our Father in heaven, that we, the children, might be conformed to the image of his Son, Jesus Christ — and then enter his eternal glory.

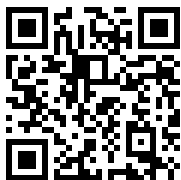
## Events

### TODAY

Christmas Music Program  
5:30 PM

12/23 Christmas Potluck at the  
church 1 PM

### Give



### Upcoming Events



## Pastors

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

## 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

919-563-9249  
[www.grbc.net](http://www.grbc.net)



**GRACE**  
REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

December 16, 2018

Unto us  
a child is born



Unto us  
a son is given

Traducción  
simultanea  
al español  
disponible en  
servicios  
de AM y PM

# Morning Worship

## Call to Worship Opening Hymn

## Pastor Stephen Byrd Immanuel - From the Squalor

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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## Scripture Reading Pastoral Prayer Offertory

## John 14:15-31, page 901

## 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

## Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

1. Come, behold the wondrous mystery in the dawning of the King.  
He, the theme of heaven's praises robed in frail humanity.  
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come.  
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

2. Come, behold the wondrous mystery; He the perfect Son of Man  
in His living, in His suffering never trace nor stain of sin.  
See the true and better Adam come to save the hell-bound man.  
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment of the law, in Him we stand.

3. Come, behold the wondrous mystery, Christ the Lord upon the tree.  
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory.  
See the price of our redemption; see the Father's plan unfold;  
bringing many sons to glory; Grace unmeasured, Love untold.

4. Come, behold the wondrous mystery; slain by death, the God of life;  
But no grave could e'er restrain Him; praise the Lord; He is alive!

**What a foretaste of deliverance; how unwavering our hope.  
Christ in power resurrected as we will be when He comes! (repeat)**

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## Sermon

## Pastor Gary Hendrix