



Behold
the
Lamb

ADVENT
2017

Today's Worship Service

PRAISE

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness. (Psalm 29:2)

Call To Worship

Galatians 4:4-7

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

Chadwick

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Prichard, Wesley

Welcome

Matt Hagemann, Elder

RENEWAL

As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:12)

Advent Reading & Candle Lighting

The Jenks Family

“The First Noel”

Gilbert

“Sing Your Glory”

D'Acquisto, Leonard, Matheson, Poore

Offering

PROCLAMATION

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. (Psalm 25:4)

Reading of the Word

John 1:6-13

Dawn Merritt

Reader: This is God's Word for us today.

All: Thanks be to God.

Preaching of the Word

Pastor Mike Matheson

RESPONSE

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. (Psalm 63:3)

“Joy To The World”

Handel, Watts

Benediction

Pastor Mike Matheson

In-Sermon Focus Questions

These questions are designed to keep you engaged during the sermon.

1. Why does the gospel writer turn the attention to John the baptist?
2. Because we live in a time where there is so much confusion about Christmas, what do we need to do?
3. What is the tragic irony we see in the second response? What does this show us about responding to the Lamb?
4. What does it mean to believe in his name?
5. What is another response of reception we see in our passage?

Sermon Review Discussion Questions

These questions are for *after* the sermon and can be used for Life Group discussion, one-to-one discipleship, or personal reflection and application.

In our second week of Advent we have moved further into John 1. Here we see that the coming of the son of God into the world evokes different responses from different people. The way that we respond to Jesus is either a cause of tremendous joy or heartbreaking tragedy.

Discussion Questions

1. There are many different ways that people respond to the Christmas season. How do you respond to it in a general sense? Negatively or positively? Don't be afraid to be honest and explain your answer.
2. In verses 6-8, we see that even in John's day there was a draw to focus on things other than Jesus. What 'lesser lights' often distract us during this season? What things can we do and how can we encourage one another in order to focus in on the 'true light'?
3. Almost always, Christmas is seen (rightfully) as a time of joy. But in verses 9-11, we see something very tragic about Christmas. What is it? Why is this sad truth about the world important for us to understand? How does knowing it affect the way we engage the world around us?
4. Verse 12 tells us that people receive Jesus by believing in his name. Why does John state it this way? Do our beliefs about God always reflect the way that he reveals himself in scripture? Explain.
5. Being born of God means that we are saved because God first did a work in us. Do we have a part to play in our salvation? If so, what is it? If not, explain. Does the fact that we are called to respond mean that we can take some credit for the fact that we are saved? Have you ever worked through this question about your faith?

Next Week's Sermon Preparation

These questions are for personal use during the week to help you prepare for next week's passage, **John 1:14-18**.

Context

1. What has happened so far in the narrative?
2. Have there been any major events, characters or themes?
3. What has happened just prior to the section you are reading?

Observation

1. What do you learn about the main characters in this section? How does the author describe them? How do they describe themselves?
2. Is time or place significant in the events that happen in the passage?
3. Is there a conflict or high point in the passage?
4. Do you think there is a main point or theme in this section of the story?
5. What surprises are there?

Meaning

1. Are there any 'editorial' comments from the author about the events in the narrative? How do these comments illuminate what is happening?
2. Does someone in the narrative learn something or grow in some way? How? What does this person learn?
3. What does the passage reveal about who Jesus is, and what he came into the world to do?
4. How could you sum up the meaning of this passage in your own words?

Application

1. How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
2. Is there some attitude you need to change?
3. What does this passage teach you about being a disciple of Jesus?

Sermon Notes

Preacher: Pastor Mike Matheson

Sermon: The Lamb Who Shares His Name

Scripture: John 1:6-13

Date: December 10, 2017

Announcements

Children's Christmas Rehearsal

Dec. 16, 10am - 11am

There will be a children's Christmas choir rehearsal for all K-5th Grade students.

Senior Adults (50+)

Thursday, Dec. 14th at Noon!

Enjoy Christmas carols, good food and fellowship. Bring cookies or a dessert to share.

RSVP to Barb Scott: 262-886-8711.

Divorce Care 2018

Have you recently gone through a difficult divorce? We are considering offering another session of Divorce Care in 2018 and would like to know if there is interest in attending. Divorce Care is a divorce recovery support group where you can find help and healing in the gospel for the hurt of separation and divorce. Please fill out a connection card and write "Divorce Care" to indicate your interest.

HALO Invites You to A Day At HALO

Sunday, December 17th, 12pm - 3pm for tours, Q&A and snacks!

Christmas Invitations

Invite your friends, neighbors, coworkers to our Christmas Eve service! Invitations available at the Information Center along with a limited number of envelopes.

Caring for our Grace Church Family:

If your family is experiencing financial challenges and would be blessed by assistance with your Christmas dinner, fill out a Connection Card found in the seat back in front of you. Write "Christmas" and your name, address and phone number on the card and drop it in the offering plate.

Pick-up will be at Grace Church on Saturday, December 16th at 10:00 am. Questions? Call the office and ask for the Benevolence Ministry, 632-2111 or email lnewlun@graceinracine.com.

Hurting for the holidays? We understand the Christmas isn't always joyful for everyone. We're here to help. Please come down front after service on any Sunday. We'd love to pray over you and encourage you, whatever circumstances you might be going through. Please know you're not alone!

Please pray for healing and recovery for those hospitalized or recently discharged: Jack Bell

Last Week: Sanctuary Attendance: 568 Children's Nursery/Preschool Attendance: 111

Giving: Last Week: \$29,361 YTD: \$1,527,908 +/- Budget: \$58,886