



CHRIST CHURCH

ORDER OF SERVICE

December 6, 2020

Next Week

December 13, 2020

CHRIST CHURCH | 8:30 AM

FIELDHOUSE | DOUG WILSON

CC DOWNTOWN | 9:30 AM

NUART THEATER | BEN ZORNES

CHRIST CHURCH | 10:30 AM

FIELDHOUSE | DOUG WILSON

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ORDER OF SERVICE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & MEDITATION

- CALL TO WORSHIP -

+ ADORATION

Minister: The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of all who are in awe of Him

Congregation: **He will hear their cry and save them. Amen.**

+ SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 25:1

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

Congregation: **We lift them up to the Lord!**

+ PRAYER

+ HYMN

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing.....572

- CONFESSION -

EXHORTATION

PSALM

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry.....560

CONFESSION OF SIN

Congregation is invited to kneel if able.

Isaiah 1:18

+ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Isaiah 29:24

Minister: Your sins are forgiven through Christ.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

+ CONFESSION OF FAITH: DEFINITION OF CHALCEDON

Minister: Christian, what do you believe?

Congregation: **Therefore, following the holy fathers, / we all with one accord /teach men to acknowledge one and the same Son, /our Lord Jesus Christ, /at once complete in Godhead and complete in manhood, truly God and truly man, /consisting also of a reasonable soul and body; /of one substance with the Father as regards his Godhead, / and at the same time of one substance with us as regards his manhood; /like us in all respects, apart from sin; /as regards his Godhead, begotten of the Father before the ages, /but yet as regards his man-hood begotten, / for us men and for our salvation, /of Mary the virgin, the God-bearer; /one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, recognized in two natures, /without confusion, without change, without division, without separation; /the distinction of natures being in no way annulled by the union, /but rather the characteristics of each nature / being preserved and coming together /to form one person and subsistence, /not as parted or separated into two persons, /but one and the same Son and Only-begotten God the Word, Lord Jesus Christ; /even as the prophets from earliest times spoke of him, /and our Lord Jesus Christ himself taught us, /and the creed of the fathers has handed down to us.**

+ ADVENT RESPONSIVE READINGS

Minister: The woman's seed will have revenge

Congregation: **And bring a full deliverance.**

Minister: The seed of the woman will bruise his heel,

Congregation: **And crush in us the serpent's head.**

Minister: That ancient dragon will be thrown down.

Congregation: **Amen.**

+ PSALM

Magnificat.....717

- CONSECRATION -

+ SCRIPTURE READING

Malachi 4:1-6; Luke 1:5-17

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

HOUSEHOLD BAPTISM

Seamus Kai Dickison, Gloria Eve Dickison, James

Maxwell Joiner, Eleanor Sarah Tate (CC 1st)

Congregational Charge: Little children, for you Jesus Christ came to this earth, struggled and suffered; for your sake He crossed Gethsemane and went through the darkness of Calvary; for your sake He cried: 'It is finished'; for your sake He died and for your sake He overcame death; indeed for your sake, little children, and you still know nothing of it. And thus the word of the apostle is confirmed: 'We love God, for He loved us first.'

(Taken from an old French Reformed Baptism Rite)

NEW MEMBERS

Janelle Heitmann (CC 1st)

James and Molly Goode (CC 2nd)

HYMN

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen.....579

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Opening: Isaiah 40:21-22

Thanksgiving: Isaiah 61:10

Petitions: Isaiah 25:6

+ HYMN

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks.....569

SERMON

CC: *Advent and Abundance* (Doug Wilson)

CCD: (Ben Zornes)

PRAYER

Ending with *The Lord's Prayer*.....725

+ OFFERTORY

Prayer

Joy to the World!.....566

- COMMUNION -

THE BREAD

Of the Father's Love Begotten (stz 1-4).....587

THE WINE

Of the Father's Love Begotten (stz 5-7).....587

- COMMISSIONING -

+ CLOSING DOXOLOGY

The congregation may raise hands

Praise to God the Father sing.....555

Praise to God the Father sing,

Praise to God the Son, our King,

Praise to God the Spirit be

Ever and eternally.

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

NEXT WEEK

CC/CCD: Doug Wilson, Ben Merkle

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 12: 1-6; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

MUSIC: 558, 564, 717, 577, 569, 574, 595, 591, 555

“MAY I COME TO THE LORD’S TABLE?”

The Lord’s Supper is observed every Lord’s Day at Christ Church. We warmly invite to the Lord’s table all those who are baptized disciples of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and His body, the Church. By eating the bread and drinking the wine with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. You also acknowledge to the elders of this congregation that you are in covenant with God, being active in a congregation which is covenantally bound to the triune God through Word and sacrament. If you have any doubt about your participation, please speak to the elders before or after the service.

INTRODUCTION

A genuine biblical faith is one that knows how to climb mountains, and how to not get lost in the valleys. In the flesh we know how to get used to what happens to us all the time. But it takes a true spirit of Christian character to deal with the *fluctuations*.

THE TEXT

“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:11–13).

SUMMARY OF THE TEXT

The apostle Paul has come to the point in the letter where he thanks the Philippians for their financial support. He really is grateful, but he wants them to know that he had learned the secret of being contented either way. He did not bring up his thanks because he was falling short in any way (v. 11). He knows how to be abased, and how to abound (v. 12), how to full and how to be hungry, how to overflow and how to fall short. The “all things” of v. 13 refers to *contentment* in all things.

DRIVE TO CONTENTMENT

The Advent season also happens to be the season of shopping and sales, and so it is the time when a great deal of material stuff is paraded in front of us. This means that it is the season when a lot of people start lamenting how commercial the whole thing has gotten, what a racket it all is, and so forth.

Now when someone is abased, hungry, and suffering need, the carnal response is to drive toward abundance. If only I had more, if only I could get out of this place, if only . . .

But by the same token, when someone is abounding, is full, and has both hands full, there is a strong temptation (and it is a temptation) to drive toward some kind of minimalism. If only we could simplify. If only we could off-load some of these responsibilities . . .

The directive given to us in this passage is that we are not to try to fix our discontents with stuff, whether by accumulating more of it, or unloading all of it. You can't fix the problem by getting more money, and you can't fix the problem by getting less of it either. We are charged to drive toward *contentment*, which is not determined by how much money is in the bank. Rather, it is a matter of how much *trust* is in the heart.

HOW FAITH HANDLES THIS WORLD

Faith knows how to play it as it lays. There are those who tell us that the true Christians are the ones who scarcely have a dime to their name, while others tell us that the health and wealth message means that God wants you to have loads of stuff. The Scriptures are not so simplistic.

“And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again [*remarkable tone shift here*]: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth” (Heb. 11:32–38).

The Bible teaches us that when the godly win, they win by faith. The Scriptures teach us that when the godly lose, they lose by faith, thereby winning something much greater. The real winners are not those who have millions. Nor are the winners those who have a measly mite. God's champions are those who have true contentment.

WHAT OUR TEMPTATIONS ARE LIKELY TO BE

C.S. Lewis once said that when confronted with a flood, we break out the fire extinguishers. We tend to resist the temptations we were least likely to succumb to anyhow. For this congregation, what are our temptations likely to be over the coming generation? We do not know this sort of thing for certain, but my strong suspicion is that we are going to face the temptations that come with being a hard-working and wealthy community. And the Scriptures have a great deal to say about *that*.

And as Christmas is the time of year when a lot of stuff passes through a lot of hands, we should use this annual boot camp time as a live fire exercise. We are handling the goods. We give a lot away, and we receive a lot. Learn how to do it. This is like a catechism class. These are your exercises. Embrace them.

CULTIVATING CONTENTMENT

Remember that we noted earlier that we are to drive toward contentment, and we are to do it with what we currently have. We must not think that my contentment would magically arrive *if only*. Banish those words *if only*.

“Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee: And they shall be upon thee for a sign and for a wonder, and upon thy seed for ever. Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things; Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee” (Deut. 28:45–48).

There are two stages here, two things to do. Hearken to the voice of the Lord your God. Obey His commandments. Put away the porn. Stop complaining. Work hard. Love your family. Husband your resources. That is the first thing. And the second is this. Rejoice. Celebrate. Set the table. Why did severe judgment fall upon Israel? Because they did not worship the LORD their God with joy, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything.

Christmas is coming. Throw yourself into it.