

- Order of Service -

Call to Worship

Welcoming Prayer

Reading John 1:9-18

- *99, Angels we have heard on high*
 - Heidelberg Catechism question 33
 - Heidelberg Catechism questions 35
- *I wonder as I wander*
 - Heidelberg Catechism question 36
- *98 Angels from the realms of glory*

Announcements and Prayer requests

Greeting

God loves us and sends His Son in human flesh

God's purposes in the incarnate Word - pt 1

John 1:9-18

Sending prayer



GRACE
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
love. truth. grace.

We are identified with Jesus Christ in his crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and heavenly seating.



You may notice we don't pass an offering plate

We invite you to participate in the ministry, and the offering box in the foyer is for your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, Galatians 6:6 -

Grace Bible Fellowship

642 Ellen Lynn, Redwood Valley, CA 95470

(707) 485-7713 www.GraceBibleRedwoodValley.org

- Teaching -

Eric Peterman

God loves us and sends His Son in human flesh

God's purposes in the incarnate Word - pt 1

John 1:9-18

- December 3rd, 2023 -

God loves us and sends His Son in human flesh

God's purposes in the incarnate Word – pt 1

John 1:9-18

Charles Spurgeon wrote, "The birth of Jesus is the grandest light of history, the sun in the heavens of all time. It is the pole star of human destiny, the hinge of chronology, the meeting place of the waters of the past and the future."

The Apostle's Creed puts the human birth of Jesus the Son of God this way,

**"I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary..."**

Those are pivotal phrases: "God's only begotten Son." "Conceived by the Holy Spirit." "A Virgin birth." These are vital brush-strokes painting a central truth of Christian doctrine, one we call *The Incarnation*: That God the Son, pre-existent and fully eternal God, was conceived of the Virgin by the Spirit, with a real, tangible, physical body, a human soul and mind with a human will.

God's intent was clear: The incarnation of God in flesh is no mere theoretical or lofty theological proposition. No, Jesus Christ was a baby commonly born of a woman. He was born into a family, to parents. He had uncles, aunts, cousins and neighbors. He hungered. He thirsted. He got tired. He fell asleep. He yawned. He worshipped. He got mad and sad. He had internal organs and hands and feet and hair. He built stuff and received payment. He bought food and supplies. His family was a part of a tribe of people in the land of Israel. His family had traditions and beliefs. They celebrated holidays. They enjoyed birthdays and traditions and sat around and had conversations. They laughed and cried and talked and worked together. Jesus' genealogy is listed twice, in two gospels, both connecting him to David son of Jesse, then to Abraham, and one going all the way back to Adam! God could not be clearer! God, in love, condescended to fully become one of us, he joined in our experience and human condition in every way, except for sinning. And on that cross Jesus even became our sin.

Augustine of Hippo brilliantly and poetically asserts:

"Man's maker was made man that He, Ruler of the stars, might nurse at His mother's breast; that the Bread might hunger, the Fountain thirst, the Light sleep, the Way be tired on its journey; that Truth might be accused of false witnesses, the Teacher be beaten with whips, the Foundation be suspended on wood; that Strength might grow weak; that the Healer might be wounded; that Life might die."

The incarnation is the litmus John uses to weed out Anti-Christ! **1 John 4:1-3**

Let's worship and marvel as we take in Emmanuel: God with us

Let's begin with a key prophesy of Jesus' birth, written 700 years before Jesus was born: **Isaiah 7:14**

Luke 1:26-35 – The fulfillment of the prophesy, the historical facts relating to the virgin conception and birth, and the divine and human natures of the child born

Why did the eternal, holy God send Jesus His Son into the world this way? Why the incarnation? Here are a few of the reasons:

1. To exposit/explain God the Father – to reveal the Father

Jesus came as a clear and tangible explanation of God the Father, to fully reveal to and for us, the character and nature of God (John 1:14; 14:9; Hebrews 1:1-3).

2. To Redeem and Restore Mankind

Jesus was born under the law to redeem those under the law and under sin (Galatians 4:4-5; Luke 19:10; 1 Tim 1:15; 1 John 4:10).

3. To Relate God to us, and us to God

Jesus is fully acquainted with the full spectrum of humanity (Hebrews 4:14-16; Philippians 2:6-11).

4. To Redeem and Restore a ruined Creation and to Reign Over It

Jesus' comes not only to redeem individual souls, but to restore Israel according to promise, and to restore and rescue *all creation* from its bondage to decay and death brought on by Adam in the fall. This rulership and restoration was mocked with a crown of thorns at His 1st coming. And so His first coming was to bring salvation from the penalty and power of sin—His second coming with a royal crown will bring a process of creation salvation from the presence of sin. His rule and reign will culminate in the Millennial Kingdom when He returns, which will merge into the New Heavens and New Earth (Luke 1:33; Romans 8:18-23; Revelation 11:15; Revelation 21:1).