



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH  
AT CASTLEWOODS

ORDER OF WORSHIP  
December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022

# MORNING WORSHIP

- The Prelude ..... Thomas Winn — Elder/Pastor ..... Prepare your heart for worship
- The Call to Worship ..... Chris Kimbrell
- Hymn ..... "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
- The Prayer of Confession and Praise ..... Hal Pritchard
- Hymn ..... "O Come All Ye Faithful"
- Hymn ..... "Good Christian Men Rejoice"
- The Reading of the Word — *Galatians 4:1-7* ..... Hal Pritchard
- Hymn ..... "As With Gladness Men of Old"
- The Sermon — "*The Prophecy of the Messiah's Reign*" (*Isaiah 9:6-7*) ..... Pastor Winn
- The Observance of The Lord's Supper
- Hymn ..... "Go Tell It on the Mountain"
- The Benediction ..... Hal Pritchard
- The Postlude

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# AFTERNOON WORSHIP

- The Prelude ..... Prepare your heart for worship
- Hymn ..... "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"
- Hymn ..... "Silent Night"
- The Pastoral Prayer ..... Pastor Winn
- The Sermon — "*A Birth in the Shadow of Jesus*" (*Luke 1:1-25*) ..... Prashant Thakkar
- Hymn ..... "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"
- The Benediction
- The Postlude



# COMMENTARY

R.C. Sproul

Without a doubt, King David ushered in a golden age during the old covenant period (1 Chron. 18:14). This humble son of Jesse transformed Israel from a confederacy of tribes into a major power (2 Sam. 5), a remarkable achievement given the size of the country and the threats it faced as a place of strategic importance. He who controlled Palestine, a land bridge connecting Africa, Europe, and Asia, controlled commerce in the ancient Near East. During the reign of David's son Solomon, things began falling apart as the king was led into idolatry (1 Kings 11). Eventually the kingdom was divided in two (12:16–20) and suffered, for the most part, under the reign of incompetent, godless, and foolish rulers. World powers including Assyria, Babylon, and Persia conquered the land and became the de facto kings of Palestine. Understandably, the people longed for a return to the golden age, a return of a king like David who would bring in an era of peace, justice, and security. This longing would be fulfilled in the Messiah, the “anointed one” (Amos 9:11–15). Today's passage is a prophecy regarding what was to come after the Assyrian invasion of Israel and Judah. God's people are told that they will not suffer under judgment forever; He will send a deliverer, a Son of David beyond compare. This child will one day have the government “upon his shoulder” (Isa. 9:6). Anyone in leadership knows what

a burden that can be. Good leaders understand the responsibility of taking care of their followers. Yet this child will shoulder this office well. He will also be an “Everlasting Father,” an image that tells us the Son of David will not look out for His own interests alone. Rather, like any good father, He will put the needs of His children first and work for their benefit. We have every reason to be confident that He will succeed, for He is also “Wonderful Counselor.” The Hebrew term for counselor is the same term used of the king's most trusted advisor. This Son of David has no need for counsel. As wisdom incarnate (1 Cor. 1:24), He is His own advisor. We know this Son of David is Christ Jesus Himself, the “Mighty God,” the warrior who has defeated all the powers of death and hell (Rev. 1:1–18).

**Coram Deo:** Jesus is the “Prince of Peace” for all those who come to Him on His terms. Sometimes, however, we find that we are not at peace with those who refuse to follow Him. This is because the Prince of Peace bears a sword — love and obedience to Him is unacceptable to those who hate Him, and they will often be hostile to us (Matt. 10:34–39). When this happens, we must hold to the truth and never compromise it for the sake of a peace that cannot last.





# RESPONSIBILITIES

## Today's Nursery Volunteers

<b>December 4<sup>th</sup></b>
<i>Morning</i> Mary Hunter Sharp & Bethany Wallace
<i>Evening/Afternoon</i> Elise de Waal & Bridgette Kimbrell
<i>Wednesday - December 7<sup>th</sup></i> <i>Dumi Thakkar</i>

Today's Sound Operator - Richard Jackson



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

Today we will observe the Lord's Supper during our morning service.

## FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Today we will have our fellowship meal immediately following the morning service.

## OLDER ADULT CHRISTMAS SUPPER

The Older Adult Christmas Supper (age 50 up) will be December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. Chili will again be the main dish. Please sign the sign-up list in the Fellowship Hall, if you plan to attend. We look forward to a enjoyable time of food and fellowship.

## CHRISTMAS MAILBOX

Our Christmas Mailbox will be open again this year! The basket will be in the back foyer of the sanctuary, across from the choir room. In lieu of the postage, you are encouraged to donate to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Please place on the memo of your check or designate on your Venmo payment *Lottie Moon*.

