

Sunday, 26 December 2021

Simeon took Him in his arms and praised God...

Luke 2:28 (NIV)

Today's preacher is:
Jerry Middleton

Welcome and Notices

Praise

Let earth and heaven combine,
angels and men agree,
to praise in songs divine,
the incarnate Deity,
our God contracted to a span,
incomprehensibly made man.

He laid His glory by,
He wrapped Him in our clay;
unmarked by human eye,
the latent Godhead lay;
infant of days He here became,
and bore the mild Immanuel's Name.

Unsearchable the love
that hath the Saviour brought;
the grace is far above
or man or angel's thought:
suffice for us that God, we know,
our God, is manifest below.

He deigns in flesh to appear,
widest extremes to join;
to bring our vileness near,
and make us all divine:
and we the life of God shall know,
for God is manifest below.

Made perfect by His love,
and sanctified by grace,
we shall from earth remove,
and see His glorious face:
then shall His love be fully showed,
and man shall then be lost in God.

Charles Wesley, 1707-88

Prayer

Reading

Luke 2:25-32

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”

Children's Talk

Praise

Joy has dawned upon the world,

promised from creation:

God's salvation now unfurled,

hope for ev'ry nation.

Not with fanfares from above,

not with scenes of glory,

but a humble gift of love:

Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky

with the songs of angels,

as the mighty Prince of Life

shelters in a stable.

Hands that set each star in place,

shaped the earth in darkness,

cling now to a mother's breast,

vulnerable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb,

gazing at the glory;

gifts of men from distant lands

prophesy the story.

Gold, a King is born today,

incense, God is with us,

myrrh, His death will make a way,

and by His blood He'll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of heaven,

given as a ransom,

reconciling God and man,

Christ our mighty Champion!

What a Saviour, what a Friend,

what a glorious mystery:

once a babe in Bethlehem,

now the Lord of history.

Stuart Townend and Keith Getty

© 2004 Thankyou Music

Prayer

Praise

Thou didst leave Thy throne

and Thy kingly crown

when Thou camest to earth for me,

but in Bethlehem's home

was there found no room

for Thy holy nativity;

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;

there is room in my heart for Thee.

Heaven's arches rang

when the angels sang,

proclaiming Thy royal decree;

but of lowly birth

cam'st Thou, Lord, on earth,

and in great humility:
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
there is room in my heart for Thee.

The foxes found rest,
and the bird its nest,
in the shade of the forest tree;
but Thy couch was the sod,
O Thou Son of God,
in the deserts of Galilee:
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
there is room in my heart for Thee.

Thou camest, O Lord,
with the living word
that should set Thy people free;
but, with mocking scorn,
and with crown of thorn,
they bore Thee to Calvary:
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
Thy Cross is my only plea.

When heaven's arches ring,
and her choirs shall sing,
at Thy coming to victory,
let Thy voice call me home,
saying, 'Yet there is room,
there is room at My side for thee!'
And my heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus,
when Thou comest and callest for me.

Emily Elizabeth Steele Elliott, 1836-97

Message: Stepping Into The Story

Prayer

Praise

Who is He, in yonder stall,
at whose feet the shepherds fall?
'Tis the Lord! O wondrous story!
'Tis the Lord, the King of Glory!
At His feet we humbly fall;
crown Him, crown Him Lord of all.

Who is He, in deep distress,
fasting in the wilderness?

Who is He that stands and weeps
at the grave where Lazarus sleeps?

Who is He, in Calvary's throes,
asks for blessings on His foes?

Who is He that from the grave
comes to heal and help and save?

Who is He that from his throne
rules the world of light alone?

Benjamin Russell Hanby, 1833-67

Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

the love of God and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen

Calendar for December

Christmas Dates

Saturday 25 December

10.30am: Christmas Day Service

Sunday 26 December

11am: Morning Service

Wednesday 29 December

7pm: Prayer Meeting on Zoom

All Church Services (Sunday and Wednesday) will be available on the home page of our website, on Facebook or YouTube.

Prayer Meetings will take place via Zoom (please download Zoom Cloud Meetings to your smart phone or open a free account on your computer, then email rosie.mckie@gilcomston.org to be placed on the mailing list).

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