

Sunday Morning Worship Service

Theme: Christmas
Todd Covey Leading
December 24th, 2017

Song of Anticipation – O Come All Ye Faithful (Hymn #231)

Announcements.....David Pollard

Call to Worship.....Timothy Durey

If you looked on the platform this month and noticed the cross, you also saw that we put in our version of a manger right next to it. I personally love the striking simplicity of this picture. The King of kings, Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace came in the flesh to someday have his flesh torn. He did this, in the flesh, to give us eternal peace and to experience God’s eternal pleasure in the flesh. At the cross, he experienced the justice of God our sins deserved so that we could experience the justice of God that Jesus’ righteousness deserved! As I’m saying this, you might be saying, “Hold on. This isn’t Easter, Pastor Timothy.” But, we can’t talk about the wonder of Christmas without understanding *why* he came. This is why even the apostle Paul said, “And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech of wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.” This doesn’t mean Paul only talked about Jesus’ death, but this does mean that Paul believed Jesus’ death was central to everything. And so today, as we sing Christmas carols, you will notice the themes of them. Songs of peace and joy – and we today have peace and joy because of the reason Jesus came – to die and rise again in our place and for our eternal joy in God.

Song of Worship – Good Christian Men, Rejoice (Hymn #226)

Song of Worship – Angels We Have Heard On High (Hymn #227)

Prayer of Confession.....Jim Hemmes

Please see p. 3 below to get an idea of what we are looking for here. Also, keep in mind the theme of the whole service. And, please come up as the previous song is ending.

[Scripture Reading moving into the Song of Confession – Matthew 1:18-25]

**Cara Thompson will be reading Scripture.*

Song of Confession & Praise – O Holy Night! (Hymn #240)

Song of Praise – God With Us

Worship by Giving

Worship in Song.....Janelle Kelly & Heidi Covey

Children’s Time.....Zach Moore

Big Idea: What anticipation! The Messiah has come! Jesus came as a baby! Christmas!

“The Fulfilling Savior, Jesus” – Matthew 1:18-25.....Timothy Durey

Song of Response – Joy to the World (Hymn #224)

Closing Benediction – Numbers 6:24-26

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his

mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”
(which means, God with us).

²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Flow of the Worship Service

Think in terms of Isaiah 6. That is a grand worship experience. It starts off with a glorious vision of God. Then we hear angels worshipping the Lord. Upon what Isaiah sees, he confesses his sinfulness before the Lord. Then, instead of pronouncing punishment on Isaiah for being unworthy, God grants forgiveness. God then speaks “Who shall go?” Isaiah responds with here am I.

This is the general flow to our Sunday morning worship gathering. Look at the breakdown:

1. Grasping a grander view of God

Song of Anticipation (“anticipation” – think of the psalms that anticipate praising God. Think “Better is One Day” or “Here I am to Worship” or “All Creatures of our God and King” or “)

Call to Worship

Two Songs of Worship (“worship” – songs that focus on *who* God is. There should be minimal to no personal pronouns. Pronouns should focus on God, who he is and what he does. Think of “Immortal, Invisible,” “A Mighty Fortress,” “Behold Our God,” “Revelation Song,” or “God of Wonders”)

Scripture Reading

2. Understanding our great privilege before God

Prayer of Confession

Song of Confession and praise (“confession” – to agree with God regarding who we are left to ourselves, and expressing our need for him. Think of songs like “Lord, I Need You,” “Come, Thou Fount,” “Grace Unmeasured” or “Blessed Assurance,” or “It’s All About You, Jesus”)

3. Grasping God’s forgiveness and call on our lives

Song of Anticipation and/or Praise (this song should be an anticipation to hear from God from his Word or to know more about him and/or a song simply focusing on praising the Lord. These songs would have more personal pronouns in response to the goodness and greatness of God. Think of songs like “Praise Him,” “It is Well” or “Bless the Lord, O my soul” or “Be Thou My Vision”)

Prayer of Surrender

Worship in Giving

Sermon

As you think through each element, we want them to fall under these categories given above.

As this specifically relates to the prayer times (prayer of confession and prayer of surrender) seek to be specific and applicable for everyone in the congregation. **The prayer of confession** needs to confess our sinfulness and even sins that we’ve committed this past week or even this morning. It needs to be a confession of how we are unworthy in and of ourselves. But, there’s more. Don’t stop at the unworthiness. In this prayer of confession, we also need to confess that we recognize and believe the forgiveness and immensely grand status we have in Christ. God sees us as His beloved saints – washed, cleansed, dearly loved. Let this prayer move on move on into gratitude and praise for His forgiveness. **For the prayer of surrender**, let it function as grateful surrender. We’ve been able to worship God and see Him in His forgiving and empowering grace. Now, we again express our surrender to Him. We give because we surrender, and we place our minds and hearts under His sway to teach us through His Word together.

Regarding Children’s Time:

As part of being disciple-making disciples, we recognize that one important area of ministry is to our children at Ventura. As part of discipleship task, we also recognize that many of the children in our church are not yet believers in Christ. Some are, but not all. Therefore, the goal of children's time is two-fold. First, for those kids that are not yet believers, we want to be intentional about teaching them their need of repentance and salvation through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Secondly, we also

want to be teaching them truths about the Bible and about God. Therefore, every children's time should call children to see their need to trust Jesus, This time of teaching could relate to the message being spoken that day, but does not have to be. This time should be kept somewhere around 2-4 minutes. It is strongly encouraged to pray for the kids as well, especially for their salvation.