

Advent Sunday #4 Luke 1:57–80

Main Point

God keeps his promises and prepares his people in spite of unbelief.

Story and Prophecy

“O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. O come, Thou, Dayspring from on high, and cause Thy light on us to rise, disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death’s dark shadow put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.” (“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”)

In Spite of Unbelief

“It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.” (Psalm 119:71)

“I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.” (1 Timothy 1:12–17)

God Keeps His Promises

“And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)

“I will never leave you nor forsake you.” (Hebrews 13:5)

“He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1:6)

God Prepares His People

“As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’” (Luke 3:4–6)

Notes

Discuss

- John the Baptist had a specific, temporary role in the plan of God (preparing for Jesus), so how should Christians think about him, learn from him, and talk about him today?
- How has God saved you and used you in spite of your unbelief?
- Has God ever used the consequences of your sin to teach you?
- Can God keeping his promises to Israel really encourage Christians today? If so, how?

Read

Isaiah 40:1–31; Luke 3:1–22; 7:18–35; 9:7–9; Malachi 4:1–6

Pray

- That God will give you boldness to have conversations with others about the arrival of Jesus.
- That God will work in your heart to prepare you to celebrate the birth of Jesus.
- That the Holy Spirit will increase your faith by showing you how God has and is keeping his promises.

Bulletin

- Lottie Moon Christmas Offering: Give Online (through Realm) or in Person by December 31, 2022 (Goal: \$5,500)
- Christmas Eve Service: December 24 at 5:00pm
- Christmas Day Service: December 25 at 10:45am (no Sunday school prior to service)
- New Year's Day Service: January 1 at 10:45am (no Sunday school prior to service)
- All-Church Sunday School: January 8 at 9:30am (followed by normally scheduled service at 10:45am)