

Christmas Eve 2009, 8 and 11 PM
Sermon for Advent LC
December 24th, 2009

Sermon interweaved with Savior of the Nations Come

SUNG– Savior of the nations come; virgins son, make here your home. Marvel now, o heav'n and earth: God has chosen such a birth....Not by human flesh and blood, but the mystic Breath of God, was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of woman, blossom fresh.

Savior, of the nations come– isn't that our prayer this night dear friends that our Savior, the savior of the nations would come– that we could rest assured in the promise of a redeemer who loves us– who enters our sorrows and our pain, who comes into the darkness of the world as an innocent baby. Don't we long for that savior, to enter our world, to shake us from our comfortableness and to comfort us in our affliction and pain? If we don't than what's the point of this night...what's the point of us gathering in worship? See... this song, is our song, this prayer is our prayer that God would break into the normalcy of our life in an unexpected and yet very expected way– through the virgin birth of our Messiah. You see, this night, this special night as we celebrate Christmas Eve together we must be serious about our prayer, about our longing, about our expectation for the savior to come– for if we are just here to go through the motions, and if we are just here because...and we don't really believe that Jesus has come into the world that our savior has entered our very being and expect that to change us to make all the difference in the world then we miss the point all together. For this night, dear friends is about us, as the broken people of the world being called to embrace the radical and life changing love of God the creator– who loved the world, who loved you– so much that he sent the promised Savior into your world to raise you up. God came down, God was made flesh, God became Jesus so that you would know love not hate, so that you would know peace not war, so that you would know hope not fear. God came to us in the Savior Jesus so that you can long to be changed and know that you are loved. Savior of the Nations...please come, come into this world, stir us up.

Wondrous birth– oh, wondrous child—from this throne, a virgin mild! Very God, and Mary's son, eager now his race to run!...From God's heart the savior speeds, back to God his pathway leads; out to vanquish death's command, back to reign at God's right hand.

Isn't it amazing...and awesome, and so so good that God gave us this sweet child Jesus who came down from the creator who was truly God yet truly human. And he did this– God out of love for us– even though we are not worthy God sends us this amazing love so that we can know love. This baby, that we celebrate tonight, this child who was born to us to this world came with a mission– to destroy the power of evil and death once and for all– that is the promise– that is the good news. The Christ child born this night comes to destroy the normal– to change the world– to go back to the Father once his work is done. Now you may be saying, yes, sure pastor but I still feel evil around me, I still struggle all the time to make sense of this life and I gotta tell you my

life is pretty hard– bills that I can't pay, loved ones far away, illness and pain that just won't leave me alone– how can you say that this child sent from God, God himself– Jesus Christ– who entered the world makes all things new and defeats the powers of evil– cause I know evil in my life. I agree with you friends if you know pain, and evil, and hardships– that is life– and though we cling to the hope of a better day, the days we live are hard– but the promise of the Christ child is this– that in the end, there will be a day that we don't know that pain, that death is truly defeated and that evil has no grip on reality– and furthermore in the mean time– the hope of that coming day, the breaking in of the child– innocent and perfect in a manger– is a gift and calling to you to live in that hope and to be that hope for the world. You see, like Mary, like the shepherds we hear of, like Joseph and all the witnesses of that day– you are part of God's redemptive work and you are the ones that are called to pray for the savior to come, to make known the Savior that has come, and to be that Christ child in this world. For God so loved the world– that he sent us Jesus and with Jesus comes the promise of a better day– so dear friends, if you are down and out– know that God loves you and that his Son, Jesus the baby who entered the world, is with you and that the body of Christ, those around you are with you and their job is to carry you. And for those of you who know this to be true, who know the savior has come, who feel the presence of the Lord, who feel the wondrous birth that came from God's own heart– get to work, reach out to those who are stuck in darkness, proclaim joy and peace to the distraught and frayed and simply be filled with the love of the Christ child who's mission was to bring peace, and who's promise is for eternity. Let us pray in our life that the Savior of the Nations, Come. Amen.

Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light. Night cannot this light subdue let our faith shine ever new. Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word! To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally!