

New Covenant Presbyterian Church - PCA

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Prelude Mr. Don Reasons
Choral Introit
Welcome and Announcements Dr. Paul A. Brown, Pastor
The Call to Worship
*Hymn No. 382 *Be Thou My Vision*
*Invocation
Scripture Reading Luke 2:8-20
The Anthem
*The Doxology
Sermon Dr. Paul A. Brown, Pastor

PRAISING AND GLORIFYING GOD:

The Fruit of Obedience

Luke 2:8-20

Quick Review

*Hymn No. 135 *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*
Offering of Thanks and Praise
Offertory
Sermon Continued Dr. Paul A. Brown, Pastor
Shepherds in Scripture

Pastoral Prayer
Hymn No. 435 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* (vs. 1)
Sermon Concluded Dr. Paul A. Brown, Pastor
Song of Response Mr. Devon Hamilton
*Benediction
*Choral Benediction No. 375 *Jesus Calls Us* (vs. 4)
*Postlude Mr. Don Reasons

PRAISING AND GLORIFYING GOD:

The Fruit of Obedience

Luke 2:8-20

- I. A Quick Review of Luke 1 & 2:
 - A. Purpose: Know the certainty of the things taught.
 - B. Zechariah (faith), Elizabeth (encouragement), & Mary (understanding) (Chapter 1)
 - C. God is sovereign over the most powerful. (2:1-7)
 - D. Today: God is sovereign over the *insignificant* individual. (2:8-20)
- II. Have you ever noticed the significance of shepherds throughout Scripture?
 - A. Abel, Abraham, Lot, Isaac, Jacob, Laban, Joseph, Judah, Reuel (Jethro), Moses, David, Nabal, Amos, the Bethlehem Shepherds, Peter (*feed/tend my sheep*), and of course Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd.
 - B. From Genesis (Abel) to Revelation (Jesus Christ) (Rev. 7:17)
 - ¹⁷For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.
 - C. Shepherds were ceremonially unclean...separated from the worship of God. (Remember Christ's words in Hebrews 10)
 - D. Yet, the Shepherds were the first to worship our Lord.
 - E. Yet, the Shepherds were the first to evangelize - "**spread the word** concerning what had been told them about this child." (2:17)
- III. How many of us can relate to the shepherds?
 - A. We *feel* average ... nothing to call attention to our self.
 - B. We recognize our unrighteousness... (*we face the reality that we are separated from God*)
 - C. Yet, God has revealed his truth to us ... in Jesus Christ
 - D. We draw close to God worship (*public and private*) — realize that God welcomes us into His presence.
 - E. We discover the certainty of what we have been told ...
 - F. We spread the word about what we have discovered.
 - G. We live a life that gives glory and praise to God.

Prelude Mr. Don Reasons
Choral Introit
Welcome and Announcements Dr. Paul A. Brown, Pastor
The Call to Worship
*Hymn No. 382 *Be Thou My Vision* (1, 2, 4)

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart —
Nought be all else to me save that Thou art:
Thou my best thought, by day or by night—
waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word—
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true Son—
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

*Invocation
Scripture Reading Luke 2:8-20

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*The Doxology
Sermon Dr. Paul A. Brown, Pastor

PRAISING AND GLORIFYING GOD:

The Fruit of Obedience

Luke 2:8-20

Quick Review

*Hymn No. 135 *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the

ground, the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around,
and glory shone around.

“Fear not!” said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled
mind; ”glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind.
To you and all mankind”

“To you in David’s town this day is born, of David’s line,
the Savior who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign;
And this shall be the sign”

“The heavenly Babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands and in a manger laid.
And in a manger laid”

“All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace:
Good will henceforth from heaven to men begin and never cease!
Begin and never cease!”

Offering of Thanks and Praise

Offertory

Sermon Continued Dr. Paul A. Brown, Pastor
Shepherds in Scripture

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn No. 435 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* (1)

What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Sermon Concluded Dr. Paul A. Brown, Pastor
Song of Response Mr. Devon Hamilton

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction No. 375 *Jesus Calls Us* (vs. 4)

Jesus calls us: by Thy mercies, Savior, may we hear Thy call,

give our hearts to Thy obedience, serve and love Thee best of all.

*Postlude

Mr. Don Reasons

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

All of our hymns this morning have Irish roots

Be Thou My Vision:

This ancient 8th century hymn text from Ireland is still meaningful for us today with its expression of a yearning for the presence and leading of God in our lives. ... The melody for this hymn is a traditional Irish tune.

While Shepherds Watched their Flocks

This clearly written, colorful narrative of the angels' announcement to the shepherds was written by Nahum Tate, the son of an Irish clergyman. After education at Trinity College, Dublin, he was appointed Poet Laureate of England during the reign of William and Mary.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Joseph Scriven *lived a contented life* in his native Ireland. ... On the night before Scriven's scheduled wedding, his fiancée drowned. In his deep sorrow ... He left Ireland for Port Hope, Canada, ... *While there* he often gave away his clothing and possessions to those in need, and he worked—without pay—for anyone who needed him. Scriven became known as “the Good Samaritan of Port Hope.”

When Scriven's mother became ill in Ireland, he wrote a comforting letter to her, enclosing the words of his newly written poem ... with the prayer that these brief lines would remind her of a never-failing heavenly Friend.

Jesus Calls Us

Mrs. Cecil Alexander, wife of Dr. William Alexander, (Archbishop for all of Ireland) wrote this poem (hymn) for her husband to use on St. Andrews Day.

Information taken from:

Osbeck, Kenneth W.: **Amazing Grace** : 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions. Grand Rapids, Mich. : Kregel Publications, 1990, S. 356