

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE



WHY GOD MAN

Anselm of Canterbury (c. 1033-1109) is known as having the keenest intellect between Augustine (354-430) and Thomas Aquinas (c. 1225-74). He was both a theologian and philosopher. Born in Aosta, Italy, after several years of undisciplined living he crossed the Alps into France and took monastic vows in Normandy. He quickly gained recognition as a teacher and spiritual leader, eventually leading him to England where he became Archbishop of Canterbury.

Anselm is recognized as one of the theological and spiritual giants of the Middle Ages. One of his works is on my mind as we are coming toward the end of our series on the Doctrine of God and approaching Christmas: *Cur Deus Homo*. Translated from the Latin, this reads *Why God Man*, or we might say, "Why did God become man?"

A primary aspect of his treatise concerns Christ's Atonement. We could consider that more fully this coming Easter. But his argument also pertains to the Incarnation of Christ, that the Son of God became flesh and dwelt among us. Anselm explores why this had to be. He interpreted the Atonement doctrine in terms of the satisfaction which is needed to restore the universal harmony of the Creation alienated from God and under a curse due to man's sin. Thus the need for the God-Man.

The Christian doctrine of the Incarnation affirms that the eternal Son of God took flesh from His human mother and that the historical Christ is at once both fully God and fully man (*Dictionary of the Christian Church*, 1997). So why did God become man? Anselm argued that it was *necessary* for the Atonement to take place in order to satisfy the justice of God. The God-Man came to save God's people from our sins. "God never compromises the perfection of His own being or character in what He does" (R. C. Sproul). In Christ we see God's justice and mercy meet.

In the Incarnation we have the babe conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of a young woman, a virgin, Mary. Jesus was fully man. Three verses from Hebrews (ESV) explain the wonder of his work as the God-Man, our substitute: "Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people" (2:17). "Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered" (5:8). "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin" (4:15). Jesus fulfilled the law where Adam failed. He was our perfect substitute, a Lamb without blemish. And so, "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor. 5:21). That is why Jesus came.

St. Matthew will conclude our article: "Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to [Joseph] 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. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus (1:20-25).

Merry Christmas, Pastor Josh



DECEMBER 2024

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1 <u>1st Sunday of Advent</u>	2	3 <u>B-day</u> : Nadine Coddington	4 <u>Fellowship, Study & Prayer Time</u> : 6pm	5 <u>B-day</u> : Beth Lashley	6 <u>Christmas on the River Events</u> <u>B-day</u> : Jimmy Dukes	7 <u>Christmas on the River Events</u> <u>B-day</u> : Dennis Davidson
8 <u>2nd Sunday of Advent</u> <u>Deacon Meeting</u> <u>Sunday School</u> : 9:30am <u>Worship</u> : 11am	9 <u>Game/Fellowship</u> <u>Time</u> : 9:30am	10 <u>Anniv</u> : Rodney & Lydia Buroker	11 <u>Fellowship, Study & Prayer Time</u> : 6pm <u>B-day</u> : Laura Katherine Morgan <u>B-day</u> : Thomas Johnson	12	13	14 <u>B-day</u> : Fulton Carmichael
15 <u>3rd Sunday of Advent</u> <u>Sunday School</u> : 9:30am <u>Worship</u> : 11am <u>Angel Tree Gift Deadline</u> <u>Ladies Christmas Party</u> : 2pm	16 <u>Game/Fellowship</u> <u>Time</u> : 9:30am <u>B-day</u> : Rodney Buroker	17 <u>B-day</u> : Alice Symon	18 <u>Family Christmas Potluck Party</u> : 6pm	19	20	21 <u>B-day</u> : Austin Griffith
22 <u>4th Sunday of Advent</u> <u>Sunday School</u> : 9:30am <u>Worship</u> : 11am <u>Candlelight Communion Service</u> : 6pm	23 <u>Game/Fellowship</u> <u>Time</u> : 9:30am	24 <u>Christmas Eve</u> <u>B-day</u> : Thelma Brown	25 <u>Christmas Day</u> <u>Christmas Morning Informal Worship Service</u> : 10am	26	27	28
29 <u>Sunday School</u> : 9:30am <u>Worship</u> : 11am <u>Deacon's Fund Special Offering</u>	30 <u>B-day</u> : Nick Symon <u>B-day</u> : Trey Griffith	31 <u>New Year's Eve</u>				

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

DEACONS OF THE MONTH: David Coddington and Ray Evans

MEAL MINISTRY LEADER OF THE MONTH: Ruth Symon

RECURRING WEEKLY EVENTS:

- Sunday School at 9:30 am.
- Sunday Worship at 11:00 am.
- Monday Game Time at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday Fellowship, Study, and Prayer Time at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

SESSION: Dr. Josh Carmichael, Teaching Elder. Ruling Elders: Dennis Davidson, Scott Kirkpatrick, Jimmy Mackin, and Billy Symon.

DEACONS: Glenn Basinger, David Coddington, Mike Cork, and Ray Evans.

<u>2024</u>	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>2024 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 9,227.37	\$ 104,200.24
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 11,896.27	\$ 93,401.65
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (2,668.90)	\$ 10,798.59
<u>2023</u>	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>2023 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 11,632.50	\$ 99,007.04
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 10,589.72	\$ 85,382.12
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 1,042.78	\$ 13,624.92

OCTOBER AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 33

DECEMBER EVENTS

December 1: First Sunday of Advent.

December 8:

- Second Sunday of Advent.
- Deacon Meeting.

December 15:

- Third Sunday of Advent.
- **Angel Tree Gift Deadline. Please wrap your gift and gently attach the "Angel" in a manner that it can be removed and replaced by the parents.** See below for more information.
- **Ladies Christmas Party, 2:00 pm, at Candace Colgrove's home.** Please bring a finger food appetizer or snack and a wrapped Christmas ornament or décor (price limit of about \$10.)

December 18: Family Christmas Potluck Party, 6:00 pm. Setup/Cleanup Committee: Colgrove, Cork, Mackin and Thelma Brown Families.

December 22:

- Fourth Sunday of Advent.
- Candlelight Communion Service, 6:00 pm.

December 25: Christmas Morning Informal Worship Service: 10:00 am.

December 29: Deacon's Fund Offering. This offering is collected whenever there is a 5th Sunday in the month. These funds are used to provide limited financial assistance to our congregants and the community who are in need as a result when special circumstances occur.

2024 Angel Tree Project:

The recipients for this year's Angel Tree will be the seven children of Rev. Mitch and Amy Haubert. Mitch is the Pastor at Brent Missionary PCA, Chaplain of the Bibb County Correctional Facility, and Director of UnBound216 (formerly known as Jumpstart Alabama) prison ministry. The Angel Tree will be set up by Thanksgiving, and the deadline to deliver gifts to the church will be **Sunday, December 15, 2024.** For more information, please contact Patty Kirkpatrick.

2025 POTLUCK COMMITTEES

- Jan. Symon, Colgrove, Davidson, Lashley
- Feb. Coddington, Ward, Buroker, Harbin
- Mar. Kirkpatrick, Carmichael, Evans, Lessmann
- Apr. Mackin, Basinger, Resto, Cork
- May Symon, Ward, Evans, Davidson
- Jun. Colgrove, Buroker, Carmichael, Cork
- Jul. Davidson, Harbin, Kirkpatrick, Mackin
- Aug. Lashley, Basinger, Lessmann, Symon
- Sep. Coddington, Buroker, Ward, Resto
- Oct. Colgrove, Basinger, Mackin, Carmichael
- Nov. Lashley, Harbin, Lessmann, Coddington
- Dec. Kirkpatrick, Resto, Evans, Cork

2025 FOOD MINISTRY LEADERS

- Jan. Ann Resto
- Feb. Bernice Cork
- Mar. Karen Lashley
- Apr. Betsy Carmichael
- May Rebecca Lessmann
- Jun. Melanie Evans
- Jul. Patty Kirkpatrick
- Aug. Lydia Buroker
- Sep. Katy Basinger
- Oct. Andrea Ward
- Nov. Joy Mackin
- Dec. Ruth Symon

THE WORD BECAME
FLESH
 AND DWELT AMONG US
 1 JOHN 1:14

HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

DECEMBER 2024

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FAITH PROMISE MISSIONARIES

Robert & Lisa Stewart	Mission to the World — Japan
Andy & Bev Warren	Mission to the World — Ethiopia
Doug McNutt	Trinity Center for World Missions — Central Africa
Jimmy & Nadia Dukes	Reformed Evangelistic Fellowship — Peru
Joy Ayabe	Wycliffe Bible Translators — Papua New Guinea
Clete Hux	Apologetics Resource Center — Birmingham, AL
Jonah	Frontiers — Undisclosed Muslim Country
General Support	The Lighthouse Women's Center — Demopolis, AL
General Support	Palmer Home for Children — Hernando, MS
Chaplain Ministry	Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel (PRCC)

HOOKED ON PRAYER (HOP):

Acton, Beth	Ligon, Brandon
Aultman, Keegan	Mader, Rebecca
Beale, Amy	Malone, Bessie
Beeler, Peggy	Margo, Chrissy
Belcher, Samuel	McIntier, Darin
Brooker, Chrissy	McIntier, Jodie
Brooker, Jan	Mee, Marilyn
Busby, Rhae	Morgan, Laura
Bynum, Linda	Morris, Seth
Davidson, Karen	Phillips, Ronnie
Duncan, Conner	Ramey, Carrie
Dyer, Doug	Regener, Mark
Earl, Amelia (Tulipan)	Renner, Andy
Faust, Maggie	Renner, Elizabeth
Gardner, Greg	Reynolds, Christy
Graffeo, Anthony (A.J.)	Sharpe, Adam
Gross, Ernie	Stewart, Lee
Hall, Heather	Townsend, Laura
Hall, Jimmy	Tulipan, Hansen
Hart, Sarah Elizabeth	Twist, Ty
Haubert, Chloe Belle	VanderMolen, Popko
Headley, David	Wilder, Emily (Espy)
Hux, Karen	Womble, Caleb
Johnson, Glenda	
Lawrence, Bill	
Lawrence, Lisa	
Lessmann, Linus	

If you have a heart to pray for the critically, chronically or terminally ill, HOP needs you.

**Can you pray?
WE NEED YOU!**

**Can you knit or crochet?
WE NEED YOU!**

**Can you write note cards?
WE NEED YOU!**

HOP is a prayer shawl ministry. We give shawls, throws, or blankets to the critically, chronically, or terminally ill to let them know we are praying for them. You do not need to know how to knit or crochet to be involved.

Any monetary gifts or donations of supplies, yarn, note cards and/or postage is greatly appreciated.

Please contact Eloise Harris or Joy Mackin for more information on how you can get involved.

OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS

Cancer:

Luke (Jonah's son)
Scott Kirkpatrick
Rick Wilson
Jimmy Hall
Heather Hall
Adam Sharpe
Bessie Malone

Illness:

Laura Morgan
Neal Bules
David Headley
Linda Dunning

Special Needs:

The Hutton Family

Other Needs:

Christina & Danny Addison
Abigayle Kircharr
Harry Jeong
Eliza Horton

Military Personnel:

Chaplain William Broderick
Sam Brasfield
Steven Mackin
Victor Resto
Josh Tyson
Austin Griffith
Kaleb Brown
Nathan McCaskill



If you know anyone who needs to be added or taken off any of these lists, please provide Ann Resto with the information to keep the prayer lists current.