November 29, 2026 – "The Light Brings Us Satisfaction" – Luke 2:22-35

Our sincerest thank you for the encouragement and gift of appreciation given to Lana and I last Sunday. Yet, I want to remind you that "it takes an orchestra" – led by God, of course.

It is again Advent; a season of **anticipation**. This year our theme is "**The Light Has Come**". This will be the focus of our various events – sermons, banquet, Christmas Eve service. Invitations went out yesterday – please take some and share them with your circle of influence.

This morning we are going to think through our Advent theme in relation to the celebration of communion. We will see a story of one who lived in great expectation of the Light. We will also see an amazing mandate given to followers of the Light of the world – who is Jesus!

Welcome

If you know and love the Lord Jesus as your Saviour and Lord, you are warmly welcomed to celebrate Him at this communion table. This is an act of worship which was given by Jesus and has been **repeated** continually for centuries since His death, burial, and resurrection. In a recent article in ***FaithToday***, David Guretzki writes about the importance of **repetition**.

> American theologian Thomas Oden remarked that a hallmark of modernity is "it's insatiable demand for novelty". Consequently, we are endlessly on the lookout for the latest and greatest, with social media exacerbating our disdain for hearing the same thing over and over again In this sense modernity is a rebellion against repetition…The Bible indicates God uses repetition to form the faith community. ("The Divine Repetition" September–October, 2026, 16)

Don't discount the repeated observance of communion or Christmas! It is for our benefit and blessing that God calls us to **worshipful repetition**. The Scottish poet Horatius Bonar wrote,

Come and hear the grand old story, story of the ages past
All earth's annals far surpassing, story that shall ever last
Christ, the Father's Son Eternal, once was born a Son of man
He Who never knew beginning here on earth a life began
Here in David's lowly city, tenant of the manger-bed
Child of everlasting ages, Mary's Infant lays His head
Hear we then the grand old story, true as God's all-faithful word
Best of tidings to the guilty, of a dead and risen Lord
Here we then the grand old story, and in listening learn the love
Flowing through it to the guilty, from our pardoning God above

Warning

How are you approaching the communion table today? In I Corinthians 11:27-28 we read,

> Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

- **Passion?** Are we too focused on the material? Hebrews 11:13 describes Christians who "*admitted that they were aliens and pilgrims on earth."* Earth is not our permanent address!

- **Perseverance?** "*Perseverance is not the result of our determination, it is the result of God's faithfulness*" (***A Long Obedience in the Same Direction***, E. Peterson, IVP, 2000, 132-133).

- **Presence?** Are we living and walking in the Spirit? "*At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light*." (Ephesians 5:8)

Indeed, there is much significant opposition to God in our world today – but we must start with **personal** sin.

The Bread

Today we have a story of one who lived in contrast to these temptations! Luke 2:22-35 tells us of Simeon, who portrayed **soul satisfaction**. The Light of the World satisfies the human heart's cry for forgiveness, purpose, and peace. Simeon was looking for the "*consolation* (paraklhsin) *of Israel*" (v.25) because "*it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit*" (v.26).

Simeon walked with God, so he lived expectantly with God. This is satisfied living, even when promises may not yet be fulfilled! A. B. Simpson confessed, "*I have lost myself in Jesus, I am sinking into God."* Simeon's song reflects his soul-satisfaction in all the work of God!

> Now, Lord, You are letting Your bond-servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the presence of all the peoples: a light for revelation for the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel. (vv. 29-32 NASB)

Next week will be more "*to all nations*" detail from Isaiah 49:6 (see Isaiah 52:10; Psalm 98:3).

(Prayer) As we are **served the bread**, let's sing together the song "Satisfied".

The Cup

In the Passover, Jesus offered to His disciples the "cup of redemption". For centuries, this cup was a "**faith-forward**" symbol of the coming Redeemer. For Christians today, it is a symbol of "**faith-founded**" on the Gospel – Jesus died, was buried, and on the third day rose again! The cup repeats for us the reality that our redemption is only because of Jesus' shed blood. When we read I Peter 2:9 we find an incredible declaration of the believer's mandate.

> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

- **First,** we see the language of covenant love – see Deuteronomy 4:20; 7:6; 14:2
- **Second,** we are assured there is divine transformation – see Titus 2:14
- **Third**, is new purpose and identity – "*to the praise of his glory*" (four times; Eph 1:3-14)

Believers are called to declare God's "excellencies" (aretaς). These are His moral and spiritual attributes and virtues. This is precisely what we are doing by taking the cup of redemption today. We are commemorating and appropriating the blood of Jesus, shed for us!

(Prayer) As we are **served the cup**, let's sing together "What Can Wash Away My Sin?"

Conclusion – Digging Deeper

What is the mission of your life? If you are a Christ follower, your mission is God's mission! This **Christmas season**, many are looking for "light" – some ethereal, subjective festive magic.

What they need is Jesus, the **Light of the World**. What might God be asking of you so you can fully participate in His mission of helping people discover that "The Light Has Come"?

Use resource: Advent - Bible Project

Please reflect: Jesus Light of the World (this is our benediction; we will take our Ministry Partner Offering)