



November 26, 2023

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Invocation

*Hymns and Songs of Worship and Adoration

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (TH #203)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (TH #196)

*Confession of Faith – Nicene Creed (TH pg. 846)

*New Testament Scripture – Matt. 1:1–3, 16-17 (pg. 807)

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Declaration of Absolution

Pastoral Prayer

*Worship through giving back to God

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (TH #194)

Sermon – The Women of Christmas, Part 1: Tamar

Genesis 38:24 – 30 (pg. 32)

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Music for Meditation

Man of Sorrows! What a Name (TH #246)

*Closing Song – Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning (TH #206)

*Doxology (TH #731)

*Benediction

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of
the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living
and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Father in heaven, we need to be forgiven. We have tried to heal ourselves. Instead of trusting in the death of Jesus Christ, we have tried to work off our guilt. We have tried so hard to pile up good deeds that outweigh our sins. When this did not work, we quickly turned to denial and distraction. Instead of trusting in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have tried to change through our own efforts. We have tried to change our hearts through sheer willpower. This has left some of us arrogant. This has left most of us anxious and depressed. Forgive us for trying to heal ourselves. Forgive us for neglecting your grace. Forgive us and heal us, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Food for Thought

*"There are women in every generation of Jesus' family tree, of course. But it is interesting that in the genealogy of Jesus that begins the New Testament (Matt. 1:1-17) there are references to four women whom you would not normally expect to find there: Tamar, whose story is told in Genesis 38...; Rahab, the prostitute of Jericho, who hid the spies at the time of the Israelite conquest; Ruth, the Moabite, who has a book of the Old Testament named after her; and Bathsheba, who is not mentioned in the genealogy by name but is identified simply as the one who 'had been Uriah's wife' (v. 6). It is remarkable that **any** women are included in the list, because it was not the custom to mention women in genealogies.... Even more remarkable is the fact that these women were relatively unknown, were Gentiles, and (in three of the four cases) were notoriously sinful at one time of their lives. If we had been looking for notable women to include in Jesus' family tree, we would not have picked these.... Something as unexpected and remarkable as that should lead us to look into the matter more closely."*

— James M. Boice, *Commentary on Genesis*