



December 10, 2023

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Invocation

*Hymns and Songs of Worship and Adoration

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (TH #200)

Silent Night! Holy Night! (TH #210)

*Confession of Faith – Apostles' Creed

*New Testament Scripture – Matt. 1:1–6, 16-17 (pg. 807)

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Declaration of Absolution

Pastoral Prayer

*Worship through giving back to God

Angels from the Realms of Glory (TH #218)

Sermon – The Women of Christmas, Part 3: Ruth

Ruth 1:1 – 18 (pg. 222)

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Music for Meditation

There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood (TH #253)

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

*Gloria Patri (TH #735)

*Benediction

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Almighty Father, God of gods and Lord of lords, Father to the fatherless, Husband to the widow, Defender of the helpless, Judge of all the earth, have mercy on us. We have not sought freedom for the oppressed, even though you freed us. We have not bound up the broken, even though you healed us. We have not forgiven others even though you forgave us. We withhold kindness from the needy even though you freely gave us your own Son. We are without excuse, but not without hope. By your power and grace, account our sins to Jesus' bloody death, and amend our ways by the power of his glorious resurrection. Amen.

Food for Thought

"Interestingly, however, nothing is said about Ruth's appearance. Whether or not she was beautiful appears irrelevant to Boaz. What has impressed him is her character.

All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. (Ruth 2:11)

Ruth is a woman who has suffered and has shown resolution, loyalty, and courage. Above all, she has shown kindness to her bereaved mother-in-law and has been willing to sacrifice her own prospects to do so. This is what Boaz finds so impressive about Ruth and what moves him to show kindness to her in return. In this scene, kindness answers to kindness, and in the pointed way in which it is expressed shows promise of blossoming into something more."

— Barry G. Webb, *Preaching the Word: Judges and Ruth*