

First Christian Church, Chehalis

December 16, 2018

Order of service:

Opening prayer / scripture – John Johnstone

Advent candle lighting and reading

Angels From The Realms Of Glory, hymn #108 – verses 1,2,4

Prayer – John Johnstone

Silent Night, Holy Night, hymn #113 – all verses

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks, hymn #110 – all verses

Sacrament of Communion – John Johnstone

Offering Thought and Prayer – Julie Erwin

MESSAGE: Advent – “Joy Is From Jesus...”

Joy To The World, hymn #92 – verses 1,4

NOTE: the origin of this song is explained on the following page.

Closing prayer – John Johnstone

Jesus - Others – Yourself

Food for Thought:

**Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows,
It empties today of its strength...and JOY**

“Joy To The World” - The History

Isaac Watts was arguably the most prolific hymn writer of his day. He is known for writing such timeless hymns as “Behold the Glories of the Lamb” and “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross.” However, Watts is best known for writing the hymn “Joy to the World”—a song played worldwide during Christmas every year. While he is much appreciated today, during his lifetime Watts was considered by many to be a disturbance of the status quo and even possibly a heretic for the lyrics he wrote. While he wasn’t a heretic, he was a revolutionary. Watts grew up in a world where the music in every worship service consisted only of psalms or sections of Scripture put to music. Watts found the practice monotonous. To him, there was a lack of joy and emotion among the congregants as they sang. He once famously said, “To see the dull indifference, the negligent and thoughtless air that sits upon the faces of a whole assembly, while the psalm is upon their lips, might even tempt a charitable observer to suspect the fervency of their inward religion.”

Watts’s father issued a challenge. He told Watts that if he struggled with the songs they sang, then he ought to do something about it. Perhaps he should attempt to write something different. This moment set Watts on a lifelong pursuit to write lyrics that exalted Christ and reminded Christians of their hope in his saving work on the cross. This desire is evident in the way he wrote “Joy to the World.” Watts was inspired to write the timeless tune while meditating on Psalm 98. Verse 4 gripped him: “Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!” And this is exactly what Watts set out to do. Little did he know that this song would spark a joyful noise that would ring through the ages.

Adult Bible Studies

-Sunday morning adult Sunday School in the library at 10:00am
-Sonshine Seekers Sunday School in their classroom at 10:00am
-Wednesday Bible Study - 2:00 – 3:00pm - ”The Book of Acts”

Outreach Ministry

Christian Women’s Fellowship meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at noon for a potluck and an outreach project.

Shoebox Ministry

This ministry is part of the Samaritan’s Purse International Relief Effort.

Franklin Graham – President; Samaritanspurse.org.

CONGREGATION HAPPENINGS

The “gifts of encouragement” bags are ready for you to fill with the Christmas spirit. The thoughts of all are special to receive.

It’s time to honor someone by bringing a Poinsettia for the sanctuary!

If anyone has a crib, wheelchair, walker, gait belt, we would accept it.

We want to have supply of items for the use of our congregation.

CWF Project:

We are collecting items for our Lewis County Animal Shelter. Items needed at this time are: wood pellets (used for litter and found at stores like Tractor Supply, The Farm Store), cost is about \$4.00 a bag; kitten food; dog food; 45 gallon size trash bags; kitten toys; always need kennel blankets.

The blankets can be made by quartering blankets or quilts and sewing the raw edges rather than purchasing actual kennel pads. Please help us help them.

We are also focusing our efforts on the Gospel Mission. Warm clothing, gloves, hats, scarves, hand warmers and rain gear are greatly appreciated.

We will be filling Christmas mugs for our friends at the nursing home again on the 19th of December and delivering them on December 20th. If you would like to help, please let us know!

360-748-3702

office@chehalischristian.org

Christ First @ First Christian