

May 3- Written Service

Praise Team: Katie Kirby, Lindsay Hunter, Merlin Thompson, Collen Turner

Special Music: Ella Ter Wee

Prelude

Call to Worship

Leader: Like Joseph and Mary, we want to protect the child Jesus.

All: We want him to be safe and sound.

Leader: And when something unexpected happens, we are frightened.

All: We wonder what we should have done differently.

Leader: Lord, in this day, help us to remember that God is ever with us.

All: Let us place our trust in God's loving presence as we grow in our own faith.

Song: **Awesome is the Lord Most High**

Great are You, Lord, mighty in strength;

You are faithful and You will ever be.

We will praise You all of our days;

It's for Your glory we offer everything.

Raise your hands, all you nations;

Shout to God, all creation,

"How awesome is the Lord most high!"

We will praise You together,

For now and forever,

"How awesome is the Lord most high!"

Where You send us, God, we will go;

You're the answer we want the world to know.

We will trust You when You call our name;

Where You lead us, we'll follow all the way.

Raise your hands, all you nations;

Shout to God, all creation,

"How awesome is the Lord most high!"

We will praise You together,

For now and forever,

"How awesome is the Lord most high!"

Prayer

Song: 10,000 Reasons

Bless the Lord, O my soul;
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name.

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing when the evening comes.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name.

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name.

And on that day, when my strength is failing,
The end draws near, and my time has come;
Still, my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years, and then forever more!

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name,
Lord, I'll worship Your holy name.

Announcements

Special Music: "You're the Word of God the Father (Across the Lands) by Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend and sung by Ella Ter Wee

Congregational Prayer

Song: #512- Jesus is All the World to Me (vs. 1,3,4)

Jesus is all the world to me,
My Life, my Joy, my All;
He is my Strength from day to day,
Without Him I would fall.

When I am sad, to Him I go,
No other one can cheer me so;
When I am sad, He makes me glad--
He's my Friend.

Jesus is all the world to me,
And true to Him I'll be;
O how could I this Friend deny
When He's so true to me?

Following Him, I know I'm right,
He watches o'er me day and night;
Following Him by day or night--
He's my Friend.

Jesus is all the world to me,
I want no better friend;
I trust Him now, I'll trust Him when
Life's fleeting days shall end.

Beautiful life with such a Friend;
Beautiful life that has no end;
Eternal life, eternal joy--
He's my Friend.

Offering/Offertory

Offering Song: Spirit of the Living God

Offering Prayer

Children's Message

Scripture: Luke 2: 41-52

⁴¹ Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. ⁴² When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. ⁴³ After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. ⁴⁴ Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

⁴⁹ "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"^[a] ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁵¹ Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Message

- Questions from previous week
 - Reading the Luke assignment I had forgotten that if one questions Gabriel the angel, you get your mouth zipped shut for a while. So, if God wants to talk to us, when does he send an angel, shows a sign (rainbow), speaks directly as in Acts?
- Intro-developmental psychology
 - One of the main ways that we develop and learn and grow has to do with dependence and independence
 - When we are little, we depend completely on others, specifically on our parents and caregivers
 - We are unable to eat, move, bathe, anything on our own
 - As we grow, we gain more independence but still rely heavily on our parents
 - We can feed ourselves, get from place to place, but still need adults to keep us safe from traffic and danger, provide for us, and teach us
 - For the most part, we are still looking up to those adults, listening to them, and patterning ourselves after them
 - In adolescence, the move toward increasing independence is where we experience the most growing pains
 - We want to make our own decisions
 - But we aren't always ready for all of the responsibility that comes with full adulthood
 - We move from relying on parents, teachers, and other adults to relying more on ourselves
 - This tension plays out over and over in each generation
 - Jesus is entering into this stage in our passage today
 - He's only 12, but on the verge of adult hood in their society

- And both Jesus and His family are in the tension of His increasingly independent actions
- Scripture Luke 2:21-40
- Growing independence
 - In our world, we usually think of beginning adulthood at 18
 - When we graduate high school and set off on our own
 - Whether that be starting a career, joining the military, or pursuing higher education
 - In other times, different milestones symbolized this growing responsibility and maturity
 - By age 12, Jesus was likely expected to be responsible for following the law and living according to God's teachings
 - But we also see that Mary and Joseph are continuing to care for Him and raise Him
 - He is in the awkward transitional period
 - Awkward for Him and awkward for His parents
 - Most of us can relate to what happens in this passage
 - We want to go where we want to go and do what we want to do
 - Why are mom and dad being so unreasonable?
 - Some have also probably experienced the growing pains of children who are acting more independent than we were ready for, or maybe even more independent than they should be right now
 - Why won't they just listen to us? We clearly know better
 - In this tension and these times where Jesus is starting to do things His parents aren't expecting, there are 2 important things we can learn
 - And these should be guideposts for everyone growing through these different stages
 - Whether it's our graduates, their parents, or ourselves
- Love for parents
 - Jesus explains His thinking and why He stayed behind in the temple
 - However, once they find Him in the temple, we read that He went back home with them and was obedient to them
 - Jesus didn't tell His parents to go home while He remained in Jerusalem as long as He felt like it
 - Even in His growing independence, He submitted to His parents wishes
 - If anyone, ever, could have made the case for "knowing better" than mom and dad, it would have been Jesus
 - Still He was obedient to them and went along with them
 - We see this in the story of Jesus' first miracle as well
 - In the wedding at Cana, the couple runs out of wine and Mary gets Jesus to remedy the situation even though He tells her, it's not my time yet
 - But He listens to His mother in spite of that
 - Even when you are moving more and more into adulthood, don't completely leave behind those adults that have been there for you
 - Continue to love them, spend time with them, value their advice
- Highest allegiance to God

- But Jesus doesn't do just what His parents tell Him to
- And He doesn't do whatever He feels like
 - He wasn't wandering around town, seeing the sights
 - He wasn't getting into trouble
 - He wasn't finding playing games with kids in some neighborhood
- He was in the temple, His Father's House
 - Even as He is starting to show greater autonomy, His highest allegiance is to His heavenly Father
 - We see this as He prays in the garden the night before He's crucified
 - Not my will, but Yours be done
- This is what we hope for as each generation grows into adulthood
 - Not necessarily that they'll do everything the way we would have
 - Or that they continue to rely on us the rest of their lives and never become self-sufficient
 - But that they will choose to follow God's lead
 - To be about His business
 - To rely on Him even as they move toward full independence
- And that's the lesson for all of us
 - To love those who have cared for us, to respect them and listen to them
 - And to give our highest allegiance to God

Song: #444- I Love to Tell the Story (vs. 1,2,4)

I love to tell the story
 Of unseen things above,
 Of Jesus and His glory,
 Of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story
 Because I know 'tis true.
 It satisfies my longings
 As nothing else can do.

I love to tell the story!
 'Twill be my theme in glory
 To tell he old, old story
 Of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story;
 More wonderful it seems
 Than all the golden fancies
 Of all our golden dreams.

I love to tell the story

It did so much for me,
And that is just the reason
I tell it now to thee.

I love to tell the story!
'Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story;
For those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting
To hear it like the rest.

And when in scenes of glory
I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story
That I have loved so long.

I love to tell the story!
'Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and His love.

Benediction

Postlude