

Sunday Morning Worship – December 14

Worship Through Song

“Christ Is Born for You / Hark the Herald Angels Sing / Joy to the World” Medley (Congregational singing)

Lyrics summarized and cleaned for readability:

- *Christ is born for you... He's the Lamb who was given for our pardon. His promise is peace for those who believe. Come, though you have nothing – He is the offering. Come, see what your God has done!*
- *Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.” Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled...*
- *Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King... He rules the world with truth and grace...*

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

- *O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today... O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.*

“O Holy Night”

- A mixture of classic and expanded verses celebrating Christ's incarnation, humility, and redemptive work.
- *Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices... Christ was born to reverse Adam's fall...*

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Patrick welcomes everyone, noting the cold weather and the blessing of gathering together.

Announcements:

- **Half-sheet notes** available at the doors for sermon notes & reminders.
- **New Resource:** On the church website's sermon page, each week now includes:

- full transcript
- service summary
- study questions
- Wednesday Covenant Membership studies (first two weeks) are also posted.
- **Covenant Membership Study:** Final Wednesday night session this week. Important for understanding the **January Covenant Renewal Sunday**.
- **Community Christmas Tree Lighting:**
 - Today at 4:00 PM at City Hall
 - FBC will serve coffee & hot chocolate
 - Middle school choir will lead singing
- **Christmas Parade:**
 - Tonight at 6:00 PM
 - FBC float available for anyone who wants to ride
 - “The lights *will* work this year... I hope.”
- **Connect Class Next Sunday:**
 - For anyone prayerfully considering covenant membership
 - During Sunday School in the conference room
- **Community Christmas Need:**
 - Single-parent home with two small children (boy & girl, ages 4–5)
 - Need clothing, shoes, and small toys
 - See **Ms. Joyce** for details or to give financially

Opening Prayer

A prayer of thanksgiving for the privilege of gathering, the unity of the body, and God's sovereignty. Thanksgiving that Christ came in the fullness of time, and a request that God use His Word, songs, and fellowship to equip and sanctify His people.

Congregational Song: “O Holy Night” (Reprise)

Sung as a transition into worship.

Song: “Be Thou My Vision”

A prayer for God to be the center of our thoughts and desires.

Pastor prays afterward, referencing the men's prayer time and the danger of a **double-minded** life. Asks God to transform our minds through His Word.

Scripture Reading — Psalm 18:31–50

A public reading focused on God as the Rock, Deliverer, and Savior; His protection, victory, and steadfast love.

Song: “Before the Throne of God Above”

Celebrating the finished work of Christ, our Advocate and Great High Priest.

Congregation greets one another afterward.

Sermon

Job 22 — “Eliphaz’s Final Accusation and God’s Unshakable Sovereignty”

Introduction

Pastor recalls Job 2:3–4, where God Himself declares Job **blameless and upright**, and where Satan insists Job only remains faithful because of God’s blessings. God allows Satan to afflict Job to demonstrate His own power to preserve His people.

Key Observation:

The debate in Job is **not** merely a clash of ideas between Job and his friends — it is part of the cosmic conflict between **God and Satan**.

Eliphaz, once Job’s encourager (Job 4), now turns on Job with false accusations. Satan is using Job’s friends as instruments of discouragement, twisting their minds and theology.

I. Eliphaz Declares Job “the Chief of Sinners” (Job 22:1–11)

Eliphaz reverses everything he once said about Job.

He now claims:

- Job strips the naked
- refuses water to the weary
- withdraws bread from the hungry
- crushes the fatherless
- exploits the weak
- sends widows away empty

None of these charges are true.

They come from a **twisted worldview and bad theology**.

Eliphaz’s Doctrinal Presupposition

His starting point shapes everything else:

“Man can give nothing to God; God is disinterested and simply reacts mechanically to human virtue or vice.”

This flawed belief leads him to interpret Job’s suffering as guaranteed proof of secret sin.

II. Eliphaz Argues: “God Punishes Sinners” (22:12–20)

Eliphaz frames God as:

- high in the heavens
- watching human behavior from a distance
- primarily interested in **judgment**
- lacking grace or compassion

He wrongly accuses Job of believing God cannot see through darkness — a twisting of Job’s actual words.

Eliphaz’s worldview forces a conclusion:

Job is suffering; therefore Job must be wicked.

He rejoices in the destruction of the wicked, but for all the wrong reasons — not rejoicing in God’s justice, but in others’ downfall.

III. Eliphaz Calls Job to “Repent and Be Blessed” (22:21–30)

In a **proto-health & wealth gospel**, Eliphaz essentially says:

- “Agree with God and everything will get better.”
- “Remove sin, and you’ll be built back up.”
- “Return, and prosperity will follow.”

While some phrases sound biblical, Eliphaz is offering a **works-based, man-centered prosperity message** rooted in his own faulty theology, not in God’s truth.

If your well (your worldview) is poisoned, everything that flows from it is poisoned.
(James 3:11)

Eliphaz can't start with a wrong view of God and end with right counsel.

How Do We Avoid Eliphaz's Error?

1. Recognize nothing happens in a vacuum.

Your worldview is shaped by every influence you allow — people, culture, assumptions, fears, upbringing, media.

2. Identify your worldview and submit it to Scripture.

The Spirit, the Word, and the church are God's means of grace to shape right doctrine and right thinking.

3. Don't sit in judgment over others.

We are not the Holy Spirit.

Our job is to walk with people, not condemn them based on assumptions.

Pastor Ash's comment was quoted:

"To call on a penitent believer to repent of sins he is not aware of is to pressure him to compromise his integrity."

Job's friends never paused to consider, "*What if Job is telling the truth?*"

And — strikingly — Job will later **intercede** for these very friends who wounded him. A picture pointing forward to **Christ**, who intercedes for the very ones who reviled Him.

Conclusion

- God is sovereign over all suffering.
- God saves to the uttermost.
- God never loses a single person who is His.
- Our worldviews must be shaped by Scripture, not assumptions.
- We must walk with one another in grace, not suspicion.

Closing prayer of thanksgiving and petition for God to hide His Word in our hearts.

Invitation

Pastor invites anyone needing prayer, counsel, or time with the Lord to come forward or pray where they are. Encourages personal reflection before the final song.

Membership Presentation

The **Moore family** (Jeremy, Abigail, Angelina, Jeremiah) is presented for final consideration into covenant membership.

Church responds with a joyful “**Amen!**”

Pastor invites the church to welcome them with warmth and love after the service.

Closing Song: “All I Have Is Christ”

A fitting response to the sermon:

“Hallelujah, all I have is Christ. Hallelujah, Jesus is my life.”

Benediction

“May you draw near with confidence to His throne of grace. May He forgive your sins according to the riches of His grace. May you go bearing witness to the Word of His grace for His glory. I love you. Merry Christmas.”

Service dismissed.

Final recessional: “On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand.”