



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
AT CASTLEWOODS

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 12th, 2021

MORNING WORSHIP

Thomas Winn — Elder/Pastor

- The Prelude Prepare your heart for worship
- The Call to Worship Chris Kimbrell
- Hymn "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"
- The Prayer of Confession and Praise Seth Lirette
- Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
- Hymn "As With Gladness Men of Old"
- The Reading of the Word — *Joshua 23:16-28* Hal Pritchard
- Hymn "What Child is This?"
- The Pastoral Prayer Pastor Winn
- The Sermon — *"Do Not Provoke Your Children to Wrath" (Ephesians 6:4a)* Pastor Winn
- A Time of Reflection Upon the Word Preached
- Hymn "Good Christian Men, Rejoice"
- The Benediction Pastor Winn
- The Postlude

EVENING WORSHIP

- The Prelude Prepare your heart for worship
- Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem"
- Hymn "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"
- The Sermon — *"Bring Them up in the Training and Admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4b)* Pastor Winn
- A Time of Reflection Upon the Word Preached
- Hymn "While Shepherds Watched"
- The Benediction Pastor Winn
- The Postlude



COMMENTARY

C. H. Spurgeon

I have sometimes met with a deeper spiritual experience in children of ten and twelve—than I have in certain people of fifty and sixty! It is an old proverb that “some children are born with beards”. Some boys are little men, and some girls are little old women. You cannot measure the lives of any of us by our ages. I knew a boy who, when he was fifteen, often heard old Christian people say, “The boy is sixty years old—he speaks with such insight into divine truth!” I believe that this youth at fifteen, did know far more of the things of God, and of soul travail, than any around him, whatever their age might be. I cannot tell you why it is—but so it is in fact—that some are old when they are young, and some are very green when they are old. Some are wise when you would expect them to be otherwise; and others are very foolish when you might have expected that they had grown out of their folly. Do not talk of a child’s incapacity for repentance! I have known a child weep herself to sleep for months, under a crushing sense of sin. If you would know a deep, and bitter, and solemn fear of the wrath of God, let me tell you what I felt as a boy. If you would know joy in the Lord, many a child has been as full of joy—as his little heart could hold. If you want to know what faith in Jesus is, you must not look to those who have been bemuddled by the heretical jargon of the times—but to the dear children who have taken Jesus at His word, and believed in Him, and loved Him—and therefore know and are sure that they are saved. Capacity for believing lies more in the child—than in the man. We grow less rather capable of faith—than more capable of faith. Every year brings the unregenerate mind further away from God, and makes it less capable of receiving the things of God. No ground is more prepared for the good seed—than that which as yet has not been trodden down as the highway, nor has been as yet overgrown with thorns. Not yet has the child learned the deceits of pride, the falsehood of ambition,

the delusions of worldliness, the tricks of trade, the sophistries of philosophy; and so far it has an advantage over the adult. In any case—the new birth is the work of the Holy Spirit, and He can as easily work upon youth as upon old age. Some, too, have hindered the children because they have been forgetful of the child’s value. The soul’s price does not depend upon its years. “Oh, it is only a child!” “Children are a nuisance.” “Children are always getting in the way.” This talk is common. God forgive those who despise the little ones! Will you be very angry, if I say that a boy is more worth saving than a grown man? It is infinite mercy on God’s part to save those who are seventy; for what good can they now do with the fag-end of their lives? When we get to be fifty or sixty, we are almost worn out; and if we have spent all our early days with the devil—then what remains for God? But these dear boys and girls—there is something to be made out of them. If now they yield themselves to Christ, they may have a long, happy, and holy life before them, in which they may serve God with all their hearts. Who knows what glory God may have from them? Heathen hands may call them blessed. Whole nations may be enlightened by them. If a famous schoolmaster was accustomed to take his hat off to his boys, because he did not know whether one of them might not be Prime Minister, we may justly look upon converted children, for we do not know how soon they may be among the angels, or how greatly their light may shine among men. Let us estimate children at their true valuation, and we shall not keep them back—but we shall be eager to lead them to Jesus at once. In proportion to our own spirituality of mind, and in proportion to our own child-likeness of heart, we shall be at home with children; and we shall enter into their early fears and hopes, their budding faith and opening love. Dwelling among young converts, we shall seem to be in a garden of flowers, in a vineyard where the tender grapes give a good fragrance.



RESPONSIBILITIES

Today's Nursery Volunteers

December 12th
<i>Morning</i> Kelly Jackson & Mary Hunter Sharp
<i>Evening/Afternoon</i> Bunny Finch & Cortney McDonald
<i>Wednesday - December 15th</i> Jessica Mullins (<i>Laurie Price</i>)

Today's Sound Operator - Daniel Ranck



ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Today we will observe the Lord's Supper during our morning service.

GUEST SPEAKER

Today we have guest speaker Dr. Joe Nesom from First Baptist Church, Jackson, LA to join with us in celebration of Pastor Thomas' 20th anniversary.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Preschool and Children's Choir will not meet this afternoon.

LOTTIE MOON OFFERING

Each year at this time the Lottie Moon Offering is received. All money received through this offering goes directly to foreign missions. You can go here: <https://www.imb.org/generosity/lottie-moon-christmas-offering/> to learn more about the Lottie Moon Offering. Please make this a matter of prayer and support our foreign missionaries. Put on your check memo: Lottie Moon Offering.

CHRISTMAS CARD POST OFFICE

In lieu of purchasing stamps to mail your Christmas cards to the congregation, we ask for you to make a donation to Lottie Moon (please specify on your check memo!) and we'll hand them out for you. Please place your Christmas cards in the basket in the church office by December 19th.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

The Young Adult Christmas party will be December 13th at 6pm at the church and the Senior Adult Christmas party will be December 14th at 6pm at the church. See the newsletter for more information on each of these events.

