

Hebrews 2:14-18

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. 16 For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. 17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Notes

Questions for Reflection & Discussion:

1. What do you think of the "potentially selfish" nature of Heidelberg Question 36: "What benefit do you receive from the holy conception and birth of Christ?"
2. What claims in the Hebrews passages do you find most interesting? Compelling? Confusing?
3. Are there specific moments from your life when you felt the sympathy, mercy, or help of Jesus? How often do you feel you "draw near to the throne of grace"?

Family Business

Upcoming:

Sunday 12/22

- 8:45 am – Service / Sanctuary
- 9:45 am – Sunday Morning Classes
- 11:00 am – Service / Sanctuary
- 6:30 pm – Service / Sanctuary
- 7:30 pm – Dessert & Discussion / Gathering Space

Tuesday 12/24

- Church Office Closes at 12 pm
- 4:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service / Sanctuary
- 7:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service / Sanctuary

Wednesday 12/25

Church Office Closed

Thursday 12/26

Church Office Closed

Friday 12/27

Church Office Closed

Single Service Sunday on December 29th at 11 am!

Christmas Eve Service | Dec. 24 - 4 PM

It features fun interactive elements for children, such as beloved Christmas carols with string quartet, communion, and Silent Night sung by candlelight.

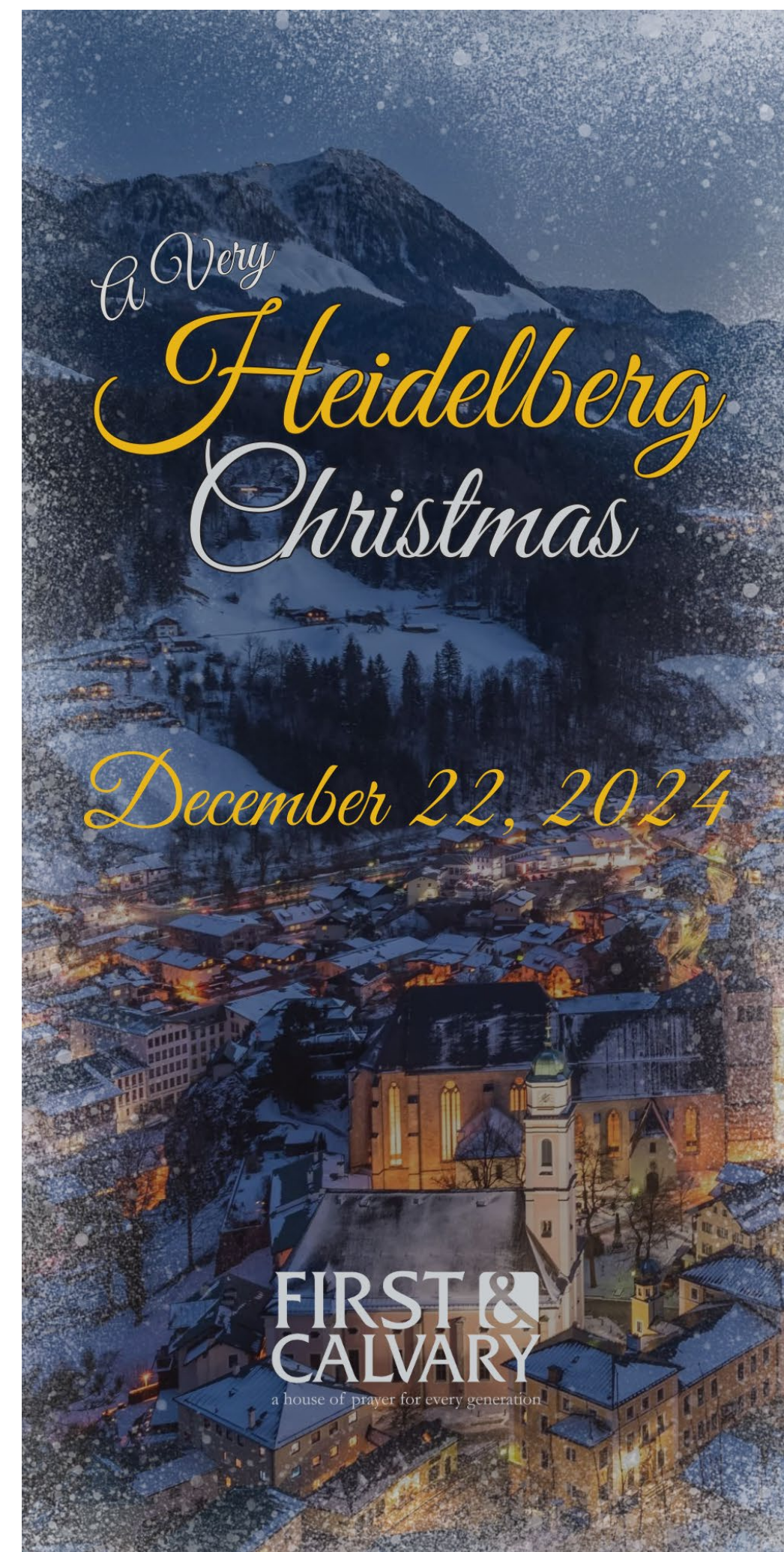
Christmas Eve Service | Dec. 24 - 7 PM

Featuring music led by the choir, beloved Christmas carols with string quartet, communion, and Silent Night sung by Candlelight.

Annual Congregational Meeting: On Sunday, January 19th, at 12:00 noon, we will hold our annual congregational meeting in the Sanctuary. We will receive the annual reports from all the church ministries and hear a State of the Church address from our pastors as we look ahead to 2025! Also, note that this is a Single Service Sunday with service at 11:00 AM.

Pastor's Book Club for January: Looking for some reading over the holidays? Get a copy of Russ Ramsey's *Rembrandt is in the Wind: Learning to Love Art through the Eyes of Faith* and mark your calendar for **January 22nd at 6:00 PM**. Pastor Don will be gathering together with anyone who has read this great book in the library for a life-giving, thought-provoking conversation. You don't have to know anything about art to get a lot out of Ramsey's book. Everyone is welcome to come!

417-862-5068 | firstandcalvary.org | App "First & Calvary"
820 East Cherry Street | Springfield, Missouri 65806



The House of Prayer

Prelude | Dr. Jim Davidson

Advent Candle Lighting | Tyler Heckman

Leader: A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

**All: The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and power.**

We light this candle as a sign
of our waiting and hope for the coming Christ.
—based on Isaiah 11:1-3, NIV

*Opening Hymn

135 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Words: Charles Wesley, 1744

Music: Rowland H. Prichard, c. 1830; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Confession of Sin

God of salvation,
in Christ you have done great things—
our hearts are filled with joy.
By your power you lifted us
out of the wasteland of sin
and brought us with joy and laughter
into your kingdom.
Salvation is your gift to us.
But we confess that often we try
to replace your gift with our own efforts.
We try to complete what is already perfect;
we try to add to what is already full;
we try to earn what we already have.
Forgive us for our foolishness.
Help us to focus on your grace.
Help us to live grateful lives in return.
For Jesus' sake alone, Amen.

Hymn 817

Hear Our Prayer, Oh Lord

Words: Based on Psalm 143:1

Music: George Whelpton

Declaration of Forgiveness

This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,
that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.
I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

—based on 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Peter 2:24

Hymn 805

Glory be to the Father

Words: Gloria Patri

Music: Henry Greatorex

Time for Children | Wendy Everts

Jesus Loves Me

Oh How I Love Jesus

Scripture | Hebrews 2:14-18

See Scripture Panel

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon | Rev. Don Everts

Conceived by the Holy Spirit and Born of the Virgin Mary - Part 2

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom
come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And
lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Confession of Faith | The Apostles' Creed

Hymn No. 14

Invitation to Offering

*Feel free to use the offering plates or contact the church for online or direct deposit
giving. Guests, please do not feel obligated.*

Offertory | Aaron Huffman, euphonium

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent

Music: Traditional French melody, 17th C.; harm. English Hymnal, 1906

*Doxology

To the Tune of The First Noel

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel

Born is the King of Israel

*Offering Prayer

*Closing Hymn

150 What Child is This?

Words: William C. Dix, c. 1865

Music: Traditional English melody, 16th C.; har. John Stainer, 1871

*Benediction

*Postlude