



Advent - Christmas 2014

**Oh, that you would
reveal your mystery**

A CMF Worship Series

Advent Four: Liberating Love

Pastor David Flowers



Advent - Christmas 2014

Advent One: Hope Renewed

Advent Two: Passing On Peace

Advent Three: Finding Joy

Advent Four: Liberating Love

Christmas: Beauty That Blesses

Epiphany Sunday: God's Mystery Revealed

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The Biblical Story: Salvific Motifs & Themes

- Creation
- Fall
- Covenant
- People
- Promised Land
- Law
- Exodus & Exile
- Messiah
- Kingdom
- New Creation
- Redemption
- New Covenant
- Church
- Liberated Earth
- The Spirit
- Parousia/Advent
- Jesus of Nazareth
- Kingdom of God

“Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

2 Samuel 7:16 NIV

Psalm 89:1-4 NIV

- ¹ I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known
through all generations.
- ² I will declare that your love stands firm forever,
that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.
- ³ You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I
have sworn to David my servant,
- ⁴ 'I will establish your line forever
and make your throne firm through all generations.'"

Daniel 7:13-14 NLT

¹³ As my vision continued that night, I saw someone like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient One and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, honor, and sovereignty over all the nations of the world, so that people of every race and nation and language would obey him. His rule is eternal—it will never end. His kingdom will never be destroyed.

Luke 1:26-28 NLT

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. ²⁸ Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!"

Luke 1:29-33 NLT

²⁹ Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. ³⁰ “Don’t be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favor with God! ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!”

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The **virgin** will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” **Isaiah 7:14 NIV**

Matthew 1:22-23 NIV

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”* (which means “God with us”).

* Isaiah 7:14;
see also Isaiah 9:6; Micah 5:2

“Unless we are constantly aware, in reading the gospels, that they are telling the Jesus story in such a way as to bring out the Israel story, we will never hear their proper harmony.”

N. T. Wright, *How God Became King* (pg. 80)

Luke 1:34-35 NLT

³⁴ Mary asked the angel, “But how can this happen? I am a virgin.” ³⁵ The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.”

“Unless there is something unique about the way
“God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself”
(2 Cor 5:19), even the most “relevant” Christian
theology becomes irrelevant.”

Raymond E. Brown, *The Virginal Conception & Bodily
Resurrection* (pg. 22)

Luke 1:36-38 NLT

³⁶ What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. ³⁷ For the word of God will never fail."

³⁸ Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true."

And then the angel left her.

“When he [God] takes the initiative, it is always a matter of love, love which will care for us and take us up into his saving purposes. Mary is, to that extent, the supreme example of what always happens when God is at work by grace through human beings. God’s power from outside, and the indwelling Spirit within, together result in things being done which would have been unthinkable any other way.”

N. T. Wright, *Luke for Everyone* (pg.11)

John 3:16-17 NIV

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:16-17 MSG

“This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn’t go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again.”

John, Revelation 1:5b-6 NIV

⁵To him [Jesus] who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

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**Sermon audio & slides in PDF can be downloaded at:
www.christiansburgmennonite.org**