

January 1, 2017

New Year's Day

Note: On New Year's Day, we only held one worship service at 10am.

Texts for this week's Blended (Traditional) Service:

Numbers 6:22-27 (NIRV) Galatians 3:23-29 (NIRV) Luke 2:21 (ESV)



The New Song of Jesus

- A Reflection on Luke 2:21

“And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.”

Intro – This year, New Year’s Day falls on the day appointed as The Circumcision and Name of Jesus. This seems good and right as we reflect on the start of the new calendar year, and the theme of our Christmas season – being made new, and singing a new song.

I. Being Made New

a. Jesus was brought to be circumcised and named on the eighth day after his birth. What’s the significance of eight days? It is a theological foreshadowing of the new creation to come! Recall that for the OT people of God, the Sabbath was the day set aside to remember and honor the Creator. When Jesus is crucified he “rests” on the Sabbath and is raised on the first day of the new week – the “eschatological eighth day” of creation. We worship not on the Sabbath, but on the day of the NEW creation!

b. Whereas circumcision was the OT sign of the covenant, for the church it is baptism. We bring infants to be baptized and named – the means of grace by which we are made new!

✓ **Key Point** – The incarnation of God as Jesus ushers in the new age. His circumcision and naming point us to what is yet to come, as the promise of God to save us moves toward fulfillment.

II. Singing a New Song

a. When he is circumcised he is given the name, Jesus. It means, “Savior”. The holy child, miraculously born to the virgin Mary, is God’s promised means of salvation. The name doesn’t tell us HOW he will save us, only that he will. But we know how – by means of the cross.

b. The name, Jesus, is the name given by the angel. The point here is that GOD IS FAITHFUL, and his faithfulness calls forth our response of faith. They named him in accordance with what they were told, in grateful obedience. The Son of God will be obedient, as well – he will suffer and die in obedience to God and in love for us.

✓ **Key Point** – The new song is the song of Jesus. He is the means of salvation. By faith in him, through the gift of baptism, we are saved. His coming changes all things. The incarnation is the first step in God’s humiliation – for us. The cross will culminate his humble journey – for us.

Closing – We are now beginning a new calendar year. We do so with all praise and thanksgiving for God’s mighty acts of faithfulness in the past, and we lean forward in faith, as we embrace, again, the promise of being made new through Jesus.

All Glory to God alone!

Pastor Neil Buono