**Antigo Community Church – December 24, 2023**

**Title: We Have This Treasure…**

**Text: 2 Corinthians 4:7, Various Texts**

Luke 2:51b

“… But his mother (Mary) treasured all these things in her heart.”

Luke 1:32-33

“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.”

Isaiah 9:6-7

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”

Daniel 7:13-14

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”

John 9:37

“Jesus said, ‘You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.’”

Jesus is the long-awaited saving King

Luke 2:10-11

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”

Jesus is:

Savior – Rescuer

Christ – Messiah, Anointed One

Lord – Sovereign over all

Luke 2:12-18

“This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

‘Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace to men on

whom his favor rests.’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that the Lord has told us about. So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and he baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told to them about this child, and all who heard it where amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.”

Micah 5:2, 4

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times… He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be their peace.”

Micah 4:8

“As for you, O watchtower of the flock, O stronghold of the Daughter of Zion, the former dominion will be restored to you; kingship will come to the Daughter of Jerusalem.”

Jesus is the ultimate, once for all, sacrifice for sin

Luke 2:29-32

“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

Luke 2:34b-35

“This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your soul too.”

Luke 2:38

“… gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.”

2 Corinthians 4:7

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.”

We have this treasure - Jesus!

Jesus – the long awaited saving King

Jesus – the ultimate, once-for-all sacrifice for sin

Praise God for His Unspeakable Gift – the Treasure of Jesus!