

## Announcements & Upcoming Events

Dec 7th Believers @ the Johnson's Noon  
 Dec 18th Assemble Fruit Baskets  
 Dec 19th Christmas Cookie Walk  
 Caroling / Deliver Fruit Baskets  
 Hamburger & Hot Dog dinner  
**Dec 24th Christmas Eve Service**  
 Jan 4th Believer's Pot Luck @ Emory  
 Jan 16th Chili Lunch  
 Feb 1st Believers  
 Feb 13th Valentine Cookie Cake

## Prayer Request

Mary Ann Cooper  
 Frank Burton  
 Isabelle Stephenson  
 Rita Stewart  
 Carlyon Crook  
 Danette Roberson  
 Sherry Byrd

## Christmas Card Exchange

Bring your Christmas Cards, we will be accepting Cards through December 19th.  
 Need a few volunteers to help with sorting and delivery.  
 Contact Robin Cox for details.

## Saudi Arabia

The majority of Christians in Saudi Arabia are expatriates. Most come from low/middle income countries in Asia and Africa, but there are also some from the Western world. Besides being exploited and poorly paid, Asian and African workers are regularly exposed to verbal and physical abuse because of their ethnicity and low status, but their Christian faith can also play a role in this. Expatriate Christians are severely restricted in sharing their Christian faith with Muslims and in gathering for worship, which entails the risk of detention and deportation. Consequently, expatriates tend to keep silent about their faith. The few Saudi Christians from a Muslim background face even more pressure, especially from their families. Expatriate Muslims converting to the Christian faith also face strong persecution, likely similar to the levels they would have experienced in their home country. Whether Saudi or otherwise, most converts are forced to practice their faith in secrecy. Nevertheless, the small number of Saudi Christians has been slowly increasing, and they are becoming bolder, sharing their faith with others on the internet and via Christian satellite TV channels. Such public action has led to serious repercussions from Saudi families and authorities.

## Emory Independent Methodist Church

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# Emory Church

December 5, 2021



## The Order of Worship

Prelude		Please be seated to prepare for worship
Advent Candle Lighting		Wilbanks
*Hymn	#123 O Come O Come, Immanuel!	Congregation
*Hymn	#132 Angels, From the Realm of Glory	Congregation
Prayer of Praise		
Scripture	Psalm 103:1-5, Luke 1:46-55	
*Hymn	#133 Hark the Herald Angles Sing	Congregation
*Affirmation of Faith		
Prayer for the Nations	Saudi Arabia	
Scripture	Luke 1:67-79	
A Prayer of Supplication		
Special Music		Tammy Waymire
Sermon	Psalm 103:1-5	Dr. Michael Johnson
Benediction		Dr. Michael Johnson
Announcements		
Closing Prayer		

(\* ) indicate times when you are invited to stand as you are able.

## Psalm 103:1-5

### Christmas in Psalm 103

#### I An \_\_\_\_\_ of Personal Praise

David's call to bless Jehovah, to praise Him, is a command that gives the thought of bowing the knee in grateful adoration but it's an \_\_\_\_\_ one, it's not merely \_\_\_\_\_ and avoids praise that is \_\_\_\_\_ in character. Rest assured that your praise of God is in direct relationship to the extent of your \_\_\_\_\_ of Him. We can only know Him through His \_\_\_\_\_. He has revealed Himself through His \_\_\_\_\_ and David relates that by saying His \_\_\_\_\_ Name. Luke 1:46-55 recounts Mary's song of praise, the Magnificent. Do you think Mary just understood Jehovah to be some impersonal being who created the universe? How about Zechariah? It appears Jehovah was more than simply a \_\_\_\_\_ ritual. Both blessed God with all their \_\_\_\_\_. Jehovah captivated their very beings.

David pondered God's Name and this reminded him of what God had done.

#### II Acknowledging God's Goodness

David reminded himself that God had forgiven \_\_\_\_\_ his iniquity. It is the first and greatest of benefits to the soul burdened with guilt. It is also completely \_\_\_\_\_. Isaiah 43 reveals that forgiven sin is no longer remembered by Jehovah. Remember that David, the author of this Psalm, had committed grievous sins. Zechariah in Luke 1 proclaimed that Messiah had come to \_\_\_\_\_ His people and \_\_\_\_\_ their sin and not just a couple of sins..... \_\_\_\_\_ their sins.

Additionally, Jehovah heals all your diseases. This can't be all physical diseases because believers then and now die from diseases. The thought is a

comprehensive one just like the previous statement. There will be a complete healing of all diseases in \_\_\_\_\_. It could be referring to spiritual diseases but there's also a future healing coming for believers as well.

Jehovah redeems your life from the pit, destruction, David reminds himself. Is this the \_\_\_\_\_? The glorious truth here is that the High King of Heaven didn't just rescue us, He \_\_\_\_\_. Mary, in Luke 1, proclaims the praise of Jehovah who had done great things for her and Zechariah commented regarding the redemption of God's people.

He also \_\_\_\_\_ us with steadfast love and mercy. This a crown of \_\_\_\_\_ and not of \_\_\_\_\_. Mary and Zechariah both to the tender mercy of God.

Lastly, David refers to the \_\_\_\_\_ which satisfies us. We try to get satisfaction from so many things but it won't be found in those things. Philosophers for millennia have debated what is good. The Rich Young Ruler called Jesus "Good Teacher." Jesus reminded him that there's only one who is good. So, are you calling me God?

Today, Mary, Zechariah, and David each called out in praise to Jehovah finding complete satisfaction in Him, alone.

You'll find it in \_\_\_\_\_ Alone, by \_\_\_\_\_ Alone, through \_\_\_\_\_ Alone and then you'll live to \_\_\_\_\_, Alone.