

## BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CENTER

1136 Baseline Road

Grand Island, New York

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www.bfcgi.org

### THE LORD'S DAY

December 13, 2015 8:30 & 10:15 AM

#### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Organ Prelude Carol Dammann  
Piano Wendy Baldwin  
Announcements Ron Mock

#### MEDITATION

Habakkuk 3:18-19 (on opposite page)

Scripture Reading and Prayer Psalm 28  
Carol 278 vs1, 3, 4 "Angels We Have Heard on High"  
Pastoral Prayer  
Carols 258, 259 vs1, 2, 5  
Message DAVID, JONATHAN, AND SAUL I Samuel 18 Pastor Cal VanderMey  
A Story of Love, Jealousy, and Hate  
Carol 277 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Benediction

#### THE MINISTRY OF MISSION

For the glory of God, Bible Fellowship Center is committed to spreading the Good News of salvation, equipping the believers, that they might become more Christ-like, worship God and enjoy Him forever.

#### THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Youth Group Monday 6:30-8pm. Ages 8 and up – this week caroling at 6pm  
Sweet Hour of Prayer Monday at 7pm here at the church  
Prayer Meeting and Bible study Tuesday at 6:30pm- Ernie Beck  
No Precept class on Tuesday with Wendy Baldwin at 6:30pm – begins January 19<sup>th</sup>  
Men's Bible study Wednesday at 9:30am – Jim O'Rourke  
No Precept study Thursday at 9:15am. - Margaret Was – begins January 7<sup>th</sup>  
Choir practice Thursday 7pm  
Adult Bible study Friday at 7pm - John Woodell leading

\*The offering box is located in the back of the sanctuary\*

Thanks for joining us at the BFC this morning!

\*\*Sunday messages are available online, CD or e-mail. See Bill Schultz\*\*

**Children's Advent Service Today! Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 4pm**

Christmas Caroling Monday December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6pm sharp bus leaves church

## Christmas Eve Candlelight and Carol Service at 6pm

"Concluding Words: Rejoice and Joy"

**18** Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

**19** The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, And He will make me walk on my high hills.

**Verse 18:** The two key words in this verse are "rejoice" (*alaz*) and joy (*gil*) (see also Psalm 13:5; 16:8-10; 21:1; 31:6-7; Isaiah 25:9; Joel 2:21-23). A beautiful example of Hebrew poetry (parallelism), this verse could easily fit into the Psalms. The reason that Habakkuk is so joyful is to be found in the fact that God has revealed himself as the "God of my salvation" (*yesa*). For Habakkuk (as later echoed by the Apostle Paul in Romans 10:17) the reason for joy was that despite the promised invasion of Israel, there would be a restoration to God's favor and presence of the joy set before him.

**Verse 19:** God given "strength" (*hayil* as in Psalm 18:32) is affirmed in this verse for the weary prophet as he ends his discourse. The image of a deer (resilient, graceful, vigorous) going on high hills (*bamot*—like the armies of Israel on the heights) is found here and in 2 Samuel 22:34 as well as Psalm 18. Again, echoing Deuteronomy 32:13, there is an allusion to the conquest and possession of the Promised Land. This chapter and book end with a remarkable statement of faith in God's blessing (Deuteronomy 33:1). Habakkuk stands as the prophet whose attitude changes as he sees God reveal His power. God did more than answer all of Habakkuk's questions, He made the prophet see His greatness. Like Job, God did not give an answer to every question of the mind, but rather satisfied the profound yearnings of the spirit. We live in a day when the judgment of God seems to be falling on this evil world, and the final wrath of God is approaching. We need to be joyful in that we know from God's Word who wins, and that we are on that winning side. May we proclaim, like Habakkuk, the God of our salvation to a lost and dying world hanging on the cliff of destruction.

Habakkuk concludes with a musical notation "To the Chief Musician." Twentieth Century commentator Dr. Harry Ironside concludes that this is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ, who leads the chorus of the Redeemed. Christ is both the director of worship and the object of adoration and esteem. Our lives must always bring praise and adoration to our blessed Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May we in all things bring forth the praises to our Lord.