**SERMON SHEET 12/11/22**

**“Blessed Be the Name of the Lord, #22”**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**Text: Matthew 1:18-25**

I. Introduction

II. The wonder and beauty of Jesus

1. His riches are unsearchable (Ephesians 3:18).
2. His nature is unchangeable (Hebrews 13:18).
3. His priesthood is unstained (Hebrews 7:26).

III. Thoughts for Advent: Jesus is virgin-born

IV. Conclusion: a final word

**QUOTES**

1. Charles Spurgeon:

*He is immutable; He will not change. He is all-wise; He need not change. He is perfect; He cannot change.*

2. John MacArthur:

* *Just as the rays of the sun can shine into the foulest stagnant pond and not lose their radiance and purity, so Jesus lived His life in the sinful, defiled world without losing the least of His beauty and purity.*
* *In the mind of God, before the world was ever created, He knew that the old system would be ineffective. From the beginning He had planned that Jesus would come and die… When Christ was ready to be incarnated, standing on the edge of heaven, as it were, talking to His Father, He acknowledged that His own body was to be the sacrifice that would please God.*

3. R. C. Sproul:

*The overarching concern of the New Testament is not the birth of a baby, but the incarnation of God. The Christian faith stands or falls with the incarnation. In the birth narratives, we have the climactic appearance in history of the long-awaited redeemer of Israel… The incarnation is the watershed not only of Western history, which is measured in terms of B.C. and A.D., but of all history. Here is the point of convergence among the Old Testament prophecies, the moment when light enters the world. This is where Yahweh* *“tents” (or “tabernacles,” the exact translation of John 1:14) with His people.*

4. J. I. Packer:

[Becoming a Christian is] *the inwardness of true religion, a state of being that starts in our hearts…, a supernatural product*, *having God for its author and being wrought in the souls of men by the Holy Spirit*.

**SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE TEXTS**

* **John 17:17**
* **Is. 9:6; Gal. 4:4**
* **John 8:58; Col. 1:17; John 1:1-2, 14**
* **Heb. 10:5; Col. 1:27; Gal. 4:19**
* **1 John 3:2**
* **John 3:19**
* **Luke 1:37**
* **1 Pet. 3:18**
* **Col. 1:15-20**