

Advent 2023

Light from Light

December 3, AD 2023
Second Sunday of Advent
11 am



GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting Pastor: Colton Underwood

Prelude

“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day” arranged by Gordon Schuster
Rachel Reese-Kollmeyer, violin
Steve Gustafson, organ

***Welcome and Call to Worship**

From Isaiah, Psalm 118, Ephesians, James & Hebrews

Come beloved, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

The LORD is God and he has made his light to shine upon us.

Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead and Christ will shine upon you!

The light of the world has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon us.

Darkness will cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;

But the LORD will rise upon us, and his glory will be seen upon us.

And nations shall come to his light, and kings to the brightness of his rising.

They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praises of the Lord.

O come let us by the Spirit adore the Father of Lights and his only Son, Jesus, who is the radiance of his glory!

***Hymn of Praise**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

***Blessing God**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Claire, John and Bonnie Claire Voelker will light the Candle of Peace.

***Scriptural Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Gracious Father, our hearts are in quest. Every Christmas, hope springs up that we might know peace and joy. But how often our quest has gone awry! We have tried to create the perfect Christmas, only to see it dissolve in fights, struggles for control, and unneeded debt. We have tried to avoid the pain of Christmas: loved ones no longer here, relationships broken, difficult memories. But the ache still surprises us. We have simply tried too hard! Christmas never lives up to what we wanted to make it. And we make others miserable in the process! Forgive us. Set our hearts in quest for the one thing that gives meaning to all the rest: the babe in the manger, Jesus Christ the Lord of all, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***Silent Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response**

IN DULCI JUBILO

**Good Christian friends rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall:
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

***Greeting and Announcements**

Children ages three through kindergarten are invited to Children's Church.

Offertory

“For Unto Us a Child Is Born” from *Messiah* by G.F. Handel

For to us a child is born, unto us a son is given;
And the government shall be upon his shoulder,
And his name shall be called,
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Please place your prayer requests and offerings in the plate as it is passed.

***Response Doxology**

GLORIA

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo!**

***Prayer of Dedication**



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

***Hymn of Preparation**

No. 137 “What Child Is This?”

GREENSLEEVES

Time with God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

Exodus 10:21–23

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness to be felt.” So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was pitch darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days, but all the people of Israel had light where they lived. Then Pharaoh called Moses and said, “Go, serve the LORD; your little ones also may go with you; only let your flocks and your herds remain behind.”

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

In your light alone do we see light.

Sermon

Gerrit Dawson

“Light Where They Lived”



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

***Hymn of Response**

No. 141 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs. 1, 2 & 4)

ST. LOUIS



LORD'S SUPPER

Sacrament of Communion

The Exchange of Love

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!
We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Communion Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Communing in Christ
Prayer of Thanks

Please come forward to receive communion.

Communion Meditation

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” arranged by Marshall McDonald



BENEDICTION

*Response

Blessed be the LORD I AM, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, amen!

Postlude

“Winter” from *The Four Seasons* by Antonio Vivaldi



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women's Advent Brunch This Saturday. Please join us for the Women's Ministry Advent Brunch Saturday, December 9 at 11 am at the home of Stephanie Bennett. We will enjoy food, fellowship and a special devotion led by Lauren Fowler based on Luke 2:15–20. Register online or use the QR code. \$10 per person.

Next Sunday: *Lux Beata (O Blessed Light)*. Join us Sunday, December 10 for two special presentations of *O Lux Beata (O Blessed Light)* with orchestra and combined choirs at 9 and 11 am worship. There will be no 7.45 am service.

Downtown Pilgrimage Next Sunday. The annual Downtown Pilgrimage is the evening of Sunday, December 10. The Pilgrimage begins at Mt. Zion at 5.30 pm and arrives at FPC at approximately 6.30 pm.

Christmas Poinsettia Orders Due Next Sunday. Help decorate the Chapel and Sanctuary by purchasing a poinsettia in memory or celebration of a loved one. The cost is \$35 per plant. Please place your order by December 10 using order forms at the Connection Center or online (fpibr.org).

Mid-Week Advent Services. Join us Wednesday, December 6 and December 13 at 12 pm for a short Advent service of Communion in Dunham Chapel. Our Scriptural focus will be on Mary's song in Luke 1:46–55 as a marvelous preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ.

Christmas Offering for City Ministry. Our annual Christmas offering (December 17 & 24) goes directly to support The Christian Outreach Center and the daily operations of Gardere Community Christian School.

Christmas Worship, December 24 and 25. Three festive Christmas Eve services of carols, candlelight and communion: 11 am, 4 and 6 pm. There are no services on Christmas Day.

Christmas Bags for Malachi Dads. Items are being collected for Christmas bags to be distributed to the Malachi Dads (prisoners) at Hunt and Angola Penitentiaries. Please drop off donations at the Connection Center: soap, antiperspirant, toothpaste/toothbrush, shampoo, lotion, body wash, socks or baby powder. Cash donations also accepted. Please donate by Sunday, December 17.

It's Not Too Late! There's still time to rededicate your gifts and talents in reply to God's beautiful grace. Estimate of Giving cards are still available in the pews, online at fpibr.org or use the QR code.

Daily Advent Readings. Daily Advent readings and prayers continue to be available in 4 different ways: 1) The church website (fpibr.org/adventreadings), 2) Sunday morning email complete with links to passages for that week, 3) Church app and 4) Printed flyer at the Connection Center. Many thanks to Mary and Emma Harper Blumentritt for developing this year's readings and prayers.

Prayer Time: Join us at 10.10 am each Sunday for additional prayer in the Prayer Room (just to the left of the elevator in the Sanctuary building). One or more pastors/elders, along with others willing to intercede on your behalf, will welcome you.

Scripture for Next Week: John 1:1–5

Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.

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DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD

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