

Advent 2023

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Light  
from  
Light

December 17, AD 2023  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
9 am



## GATHERING TO PRAISE

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*Assisting Pastor: Colton Underwood*

### **\*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!**

### **\*Songs of Praise**

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

“Hail the Blest Morn (Brightest and Best)”

### **\*Blessing God**

### **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

Mandi and John Croskrey will light the Candle of Love.

## \*Song of Praise

“Away in a Manger”

## Infant Baptisms

Julien James and Mila Renée Shafto

Parents are Nicolette and John Shafto

Sponsoring Elder is Cheryl Brodnax

## \*Affirmation of Faith

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
And born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The holy catholic Church,  
The communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body,  
And the life everlasting. Amen.**



## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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### \*Greeting and Announcements

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

## **Time with God's Word**

Prayer for the Holy Spirit

*2 Corinthians 4:3-6*

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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

"Catch Fire!"



## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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### **Time of Reflection**

### **\*Song of Response**

"Light of the World"

*Please bring your offerings and prayer requests forward.*



## INTERCESSION

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### **Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**



## BENEDICTION

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### **\*Song of Response**

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

### **\*Response**

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

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*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: Isaiah 21:8-12; 52:7-9*

*Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Welcome.** We are glad you're here. If you are visiting with us, please use the Visitor Card in the pew racks, our church app (FPCBR in the App Store) or online at [fpcbr.org/connect](http://fpcbr.org/connect).

**Baptisms Today.** Congratulations to the Agosta and Maranto families. Milo Agosta and Lillian Maranto were baptized at the 7.45 am service this morning.

**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. Offering envelopes are in the pew racks or you may use the online donation form. See today's insert for more information about these two ministries.

**Last Day to Donate for Malachi Dads!** Toiletry items are being collected for Christmas bags to be distributed to the Malachi Dads (prisoners) at Angola Penitentiary. Please consider making a donation and dropping it off at the Connection Center. Cash donations accepted.

**Christmas Eve Worship.** Three festive Christmas Eve services of carols, candlelight and communion: 11 am, 4 and 6 pm. Childcare will be available at all services. There will be no worship December 25.

**New Year's Eve Combined Worship.** Join us for our one 10.30 am service on December 31, 2023.

***The Sweet Ache of Friendship: Braving Shadows and Chasing Heaven.*** Gerrit's new article about friendship is now at [desiringgod.com](http://desiringgod.com). Hard copies are available at the Connection Center.

**Daily Advent Readings.** Daily Advent readings and prayers continue to be available in 4 different ways: 1) The church website ([fpcbr.org/adventreadings](http://fpcbr.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.



DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD

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