

Advent 2023

Light
from
Light

December 3, AD 2023
Second Sunday of Advent
9 am



GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting Pastor: Darin Travis

Welcome

***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**

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”
“What Child Is This?”

***Blessing God**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Nicolette, Robbie, Julian and Mila Shafto will light the Candle of Peace.

**Standing*

*Song of Praise

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

*Greeting and Announcements

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



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Time with God’s Word

Prayer for the Holy Spirit

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

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



LORD'S SUPPER

We Are Welcomed to the Table

We Give Thanks for Jesus' Mighty Acts

We Hear the Words Jesus Said at Supper

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We Commune with Jesus

Please bring your prayer requests and offerings forward during communion.



BENEDICTION

*Songs of Response

“Hail the Blest Morn”

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

*Response

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Prayer Requests. We'd love to pray for you. Prayer requests may be sent to prayer@fpcbr.org, through the church app or by filling out a card in the pew rack.

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. 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.

announcement continue onto the back panel . . .



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 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 (fpcbr.org).

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 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 fpcbr.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 (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.

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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