

Advent 2023

Light from Light

November 26, AD 2023
First Day of Advent
9 am



GATHERING TO PRAISE

Assisting Pastor: Scott Graham

***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**

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

***Blessing God**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Candle of Hope will be lit by Kate, Nathan, Louis, Silas, Miles, Rosemary and Mabel Freeman.

**Standing*

***Song of Praise**

“Light of the World”

Baptisms

Ivy Claire and Mazie James Smith

Parents are Chelsea and Justin Smith

Sponsoring Elder is Ryan Dickerson

***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

*Greeting and Announcements

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

Time with God's Word

Prayer for the Holy Spirit

Genesis 1:3–5; 14–16

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.

Revelation 21:22–25

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.

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 Before the Sun"



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

***Song of Response**

“Hail the Blest Morn (Brightest and Best)”

Please bring your offerings and prayer requests forward.



INTERCESSION

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer



BENEDICTION

***Song of Response**

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

***Response**

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

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.

Chapel and Sanctuary Flowers: Today’s flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jolie Berry who faithfully served the church as Deacon, Elder and Presbytery Moderator, by her husband Gene and their children Katherine Hearn and David Berry.

*Scripture for Next Week: Isaiah 9: 2-7; Luke 1: 76-79
Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mid-Week Advent Services Begin Wednesday. Join us Wednesday, November 30, December 6 and December 13 for a short Advent service of Communion in Dunham Chapel. Service times are 12–12.45 pm.

Live Nativity This Friday! Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, angels, wise men and shepherds will re-enact Jesus' birth. Join us Friday, December 1 at 5.30 and 6.30 pm in the Terraced Garden.

Women's Advent Brunch, December 9. 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. Register online at fpibr.org. \$10 per person.

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 or online at fpibr.org.

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

Downtown Pilgrimage, December 10. 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. Help decorate the Chapel and Sanctuary by purchasing a poinsettia in memory or celebration of a loved one. Order forms are due December 10 and are at the Connection Center or online (fpibr.org).

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. A list of needed items is at the Connection Center.

Youth Events! Middle and high school students are invited tonight to our final Sunday night study in "Judges & Kings" until the new year from 5 to 7 pm at the church. The Youth Ugly Sweater Christmas party is Saturday, December 2 at 5 pm at the church.



DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD

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