

Light: The Beginning
Genesis 1:1-4; John 1:1-9
November 29, 2020

I. Introduction

II. Advent Series: Light

III. Parallel passages (Gen. 1:1-4; Jn. 1:1-9)

A. The beginning

1. In Genesis: God (Gen. 1:1)
2. In John: the Word (Jn. 1:1)

B. Creation

1. In Genesis (Gen. 1:1)
2. In John (Jn. 1:3)

C. Light

1. In Genesis (Gen. 1:3)
2. In John (Jn. 1:8, 6 times in passage)

IV. What can we gather? (Gen. 1:1-4; Jn. 1:1-9)

A. God is light

B. God is coming to us (Jn. 1:9)

1. To restore the good (Gen 1:4)
2. To give eternal life (Jn. 1:4)

C. Darkness cannot overcome it (Jn. 1:5)

V. Conclusion: Joel Payne, "In the Beginning" (2014)

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**Congregational Meeting
December 13**

Immediately following the service there will be a congregational meeting for the purpose of electing officers.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



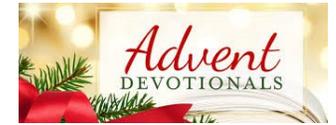
Advent devotionals are available in the narthex for those who would like to take one.

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All of the angels from the tree have been selected! Please fill and turn in your angel bags to the Narthex no later than Sunday, December 6. If you have a large item which won't fit into the bag, please tape it or tie it to the bag. If you have questions contact Carolyn Wohlwend at 904-422-8333.



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We're making plans for a special time of worship on Christmas Eve and we want you to join us!

In order to maintain social distancing and keep everyone as safe as possible, please let us know you'll be coming and how many will be in your group. Please return to one of the offering plates as you leave the sanctuary.

Name: _____

Number Attending: _____



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The Season of Advent

*A time of celebrating the birth of Jesus and
a time of waiting, hoping and yearning for His return...*

Advent means “coming” or “arrival.” During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. In its historical origins, the season of Advent was patterned after the season of Lent, a six-week period of penitence and preparation for Easter. Similarly, the four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ’s return.

Christ has come! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!
During Advent, we are living between the first and the second coming of the Lord.

Something New for Advent This Year

During Advent this year we will be exploring the of ***Growing Light***. This year as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, the light of the world, and look with hope for the dawning of God’s new creation, we will begin our Advent season in darkness. You will notice:

The sanctuary windows have been covered. Each week after the message in worship certain curtain panels will be removed in order to allow more and more light to stream into the sanctuary.

The Bible verses used in worship also follow the theme of darkness to light, confusion and turmoil to hope and peace. The communion table is covered with a cloth that is strategically painted in dark purple and black at the bottom and gradually lightens as your eye travels up the covering until it changes to colors of light.

Christmas Eve we will be at our brightest, radiating the joy of the babe that was born and the hope He brings when He comes again. After worship, you will go into the world bearing Christ’s Light in your heart for others to see and experience.

The Worship Committee and Church Staff pray that you will experience Christmas here at Hodges with all your senses wide open and receptive to the Word, the Music, and the Growing Light.

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Chrismon Ornaments: Symbols of Christ



Over the years, the Christmas tree has become a symbol of Christ as the "tree of life." The use of Chrismons to decorate Christmas trees is popular in many churches today. Chrismons were

first developed in 1957 by Frances Kipps Spencer of Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Va. In an effort to create appropriate decorations for her church Christmas tree, Spencer fashioned centuries-old symbols into white and gold tree decorations.



"Chrismon" is a combination of the words "Christ" and "monogram," and means "symbols of Christ." Examples of popular Chrismons are the Alpha and Omega, the Anchor Cross, a Bell, the Bible, various differently shaped Crosses, the Butterfly, the Lamb, the Manger and more. Chrismons are gold and white, representing majesty and purity.

Ideas for fashioning them are developed from early Christian symbols, the Bible and church histories.



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