

**Welcome**

December 21, 2025



If you are visiting with us this morning, please take a moment and complete a **C.A.R.E.** card and drop it in the offering plate **OR** scan the **QR** code.

## **Morning Worship**

**“Angels We Have Heard on High”**

**Lighting of Advent Candles**

**Puppets “What a Glorious Night”**

**Welcome and Prayer**

**“O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

**“Come You Unfaithful”**

**“O, the Deep Deep Love of Jesus”**

**Offertory Prayer:**

**Offertory Music:**

**Message: Know Jesus Know Love**

**Luke 2:4-14**

**Invitation: “How Deep the Father's Love”**

**Benediction:**

**Postlude:**

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Sunday, Tonight at 6:00 - A night of Praise - churchwide event
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:30 pm

- **Tithe and Offering** as of last Sunday: **\$2,852.70**

**Lottie Moon Goal: \$3,500 – Current \$1,215**

**Greeters:** Carolyn Hester & Dennis Shull

**Next Week – 12/28: Rhonda Newton & Loraine West**

**Join us to celebrate Ann's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday!**

**Date: Saturday, December 27**

**Time 6:00 pm**

**Location: Zoar's Family Life Center**

**PLEASE RSVP By December 21<sup>st</sup> to Lyn @ 704-300-2386**



**Key Scripture:** John 1:14–18; John 3:14–18

## **I. Love Personified: The Incarnation (John 1:14-15)**

- **Love put on skin.** God's love did not stay distant; it became a Person, close enough to be seen and touched.
  - *"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us."*
- **Love is the perfect balance of Grace and Truth.**
  - Grace without truth = Soft permission.
  - Truth without grace = Cold condemnation.
  - **Jesus** is the only one "full of grace and truth."

### **Incarnational Love:**

1. **Let Jesus redefine your measure of love** (it's priceless).
2. **Practice "Incarnational" presence:** Move toward someone who needs you (a call, a visit).
3. **Hold Grace and Truth together** in your difficult relationships.

## **II. Love's Amazing Gift: Grace Upon Grace (John 1:16-18)**

- **The Best Gift Money Cannot Buy:** From Jesus' fullness, we receive "**grace upon grace.**"
  - **Mercy** is God not giving you what your sin deserves.
  - **Grace** is God giving you what you never could deserve.
- **The Law vs. The Savior:**
  - **The Law** (given by Moses) can diagnose the stain.
  - **Jesus** brings grace and truth to **wash out the stain** and truly heal.

### **Responding to Grace:**

1. **Stop trying to pay God back:** Grace is a gift, not a loan. Your next step is **trust**, not proof.
2. **Give the gift you have received:** Extend patience and forgiveness (grace upon grace) to someone else this week.

## **III. Love's Final Action: Reckless Pursuit (John 3:14-18)**

- **Love is Costly:** It is proven by what it is willing to **sacrifice** (looking ahead to the cross).
- **God's Motivation is Salvation, Not Condemnation.**
  - *"God did not send his Son... to condemn the world, but... that the world might be saved."* (v. 17)
  - **The Cross** is God saying: **"I still want you."**

### **Faith and Action:**

1. **Let His pursuit settle your panic:** Stop believing God is just tolerating you.
2. **Respond to love with trust:** Believe and receive. You are saved because **He is loving**, not because you are worthy.
3. **Pursue somebody:** Take the first step toward someone you have been avoiding, just as God pursued you.