

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 90th Birthday!

Date: Saturday, December 27

Time 6:00 pm

Location: Zoar's Family Life Center

PLEASE RSVP By December 21st 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.