
TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP**JOIN A SERVE TEAM****NEW HERE?****CONNECTION CARD****STAY UP TO DATE****SUBSCRIBE TO DIGITAL BULLETIN****Message Series: Light & Life****Message Title: Creation Light****Scripture: Genesis 1:1–3; 2 Corinthians 4:6–7; Colossians 1:15–17**

Darkness retreats in the presence of light, no matter how dim the light. And that's where the story of God begins. Not with a temple, not with a people, not even with the cross, but with light breaking into darkness.

Today, we begin a series called Light and Life as we prepare to celebrate Christmas in 25 short days. Today also marks the beginning of the season of Advent.

Advent reminds us of the current time in which we live. In some ways, we live in a perpetual Advent, as we live in the middle of what God began with the incarnation, the birth of his son, and we eagerly await the coming return of the victorious King Jesus, who makes all things new and all things right. We live between two phrases, one from a well-known Christmas carol and the other from the last lines of Revelation. We live between "Joy to the world, the Lord has come" and "Come, Lord Jesus, come."

Advent reminds us that Jesus came in history, and we long for him to come again. But in our present longing, we live in the present darkness of a world deeply fractured by sin, death, and evil. While we see and experience the darkness around us, we also begin to realize that the darkness of sin, evil, and death is also at work with us.

The story of God and the time of Advent both begin in the same place: in the dark. Before the angels sang, before the manger glowed with divine presence, the world waited in shadows. But the same God who spoke into the darkness of creation now speaks into the darkness of our world, and our hearts, through Jesus Christ.

Genesis 1:1-3—God said, "Let there be light."

- The opening verses of Genesis are both simple and profound. These memorable verses describe a formless, void world covered in *darkness*.
- The pre-creation world was a wild, chaotic, unordered wasteland shrouded in utter darkness. Nothing exists or is yet in its place. Nothing yet makes sense until God speaks. And when God spoke, the darkness didn't fight; it didn't argue, it listened to the voice of God, who brought light and life.
- God spoke, "Let there be light." The first sound in all creation was God's thundering, life-giving voice. And the first result of his voice was light. While this is a physical description of what occurred, it's also a theological declaration: When God speaks, darkness loses its power.
- Notice that God doesn't begin creation with stars, or trees, or even humans. God began with the one thing that made life possible for everything else: light. And notice, too, that this creation light comes before the sun, the moon, and the stars are created. The first light on the first day of creation was not dependent on the created order. Creation's first light proceeded from God's self.

1 John 1:5 says this: **“God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all.”** From the very beginning, God is light. God’s presence radiates illuminating light, and his voice commanded the darkness to retreat.

Maybe right now your world feels like these opening verses from the story of God: formless, empty, void, lifeless, shrouded in darkness. You can’t find direction in the darkness that clings in and around you. You feel stuck and disoriented. The good news of Genesis 1:1-3 is that darkness does not have the final word when God speaks. Advent reminds us of the hope that God brings when he speaks into the darkness. No matter how dim God’s light may seem in the darkness, the truth remains: God is light.

2 Corinthians 4:6-8—For God, who said, “Let there be light in the darkness,” has made this light shine in our hearts...

- Paul deliberately echoes Genesis 1 while applying it to salvation. He’s saying salvation is an act of new creation. Just as God once spoke into the physical darkness of the world, he now speaks into the spiritual darkness of the human heart.
- Paul says it shines “in our hearts,” the deepest, most hidden part of who we are. That’s where the chaos still hides. That’s where our fears, guilt, and doubts dwell. But God doesn’t avoid our darkness. He invades it when we open our hearts to him.
- We are fragile vessels, cracked, imperfect, and breakable. But God’s light does not need perfection to shine; it needs space. The good news is that God’s light allows us to see, to trust, and believe that Jesus is God’s greatest word and greatest light. The glory of the gospel is that the light of the world has chosen to live inside imperfect people.

Don’t hide your broken places this Advent. Offer them to God. The same voice that said “Let there be light” can bring clarity, healing, and hope right where you feel most chaotic.

The same voice that spoke light into darkness sent his son Jesus to the Word of God and the light of the world. Jesus was present before creation, and integral to all of creation. In Colossians 1:15-17, Paul writes about Jesus, ***He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth.***

Jesus isn’t just the bringer of light. He is the Light. The Word that spoke creation into being became flesh and dwelt among us. ***“In him was life, and that life was the light of all humanity.”*** (John 1:4)

Here’s the invitation to respond to God’s creation light:

- ***Slow down:*** This week, choose one daily moment to pause, without your phone, and let God speak into the pace of your life.
- ***Be still:*** Set aside five minutes each day to sit quietly before God, letting his presence settle your heart.
- ***Make room:*** Identify one commitment to release or simplify this week so you can give God more room to work.
- ***Open your heart:*** Pray each day honestly, naming one place where you need God’s light to shine.



Advent: Born to Dwell Reading Plan on the Bible App

Spend 20 days recounting the Bible's Christmas story from Old Testament passages and the Gospels. Slow down, worship Jesus, and cherish Him by faith. Receive and rejoice in God's greatest gift. Jesus Christ is the Word made flesh to dwell among us. Scan the QR to set Harvest Spings as your church and join the featured plan.