



Forest Home Church

Forest Home Church
1751 Old Natchez Trace
Franklin, TN 37069

www.ForestHomeChurch.org

December 19th, 2010

"Sharing, Loving & Exploring Life in Christ"

Send announcements, praises, and prayer requests to newsletter@foresthomechurch.org

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:20)



What was it about Joseph that the Lord God would entrust him with the raising of the baby Jesus? The Bible does not tell us a great deal about Joseph, but it does not appear that Joseph was rich or powerful, a great orator, an entrepreneur, a genius or an experienced parent. It does tell us he was "a righteous man", and given the circumstances of Mary's pregnancy, he walked the path of humility before receiving the honor of being Jesus' step-father.

ORPHAN
LETTERS ARE
DUE TODAY.
PLEASE GIVE
THEM TO GIL
OR LIZ.

For the promise of harvest
contained within a seed
we thank you.
For the oak tree
within an acorn
The bread
within a grain
The Savior of the World
At rest in a manger
We thank you.

O' Renew your promise
to reveal among us the light of your presence.
May your word be a lantern to our feet
and a light upon our path
that we may behold your coming among us.
(prayer redacted from John Birch)

Prayers and Praises

- Our brothers/sisters in Africa: Jac Agak, Charles Ngoje, Jacob Randiek, and your orphan(s)
- Lord's comfort for Larry and Barbara in loss of Aunt
- Pregnancies of Lisa Grimenstein & Danielle Wood
- Lord's guidance & blessing FH in affirming elders
- Lord's hand with several seeking new work and selling homes
- Local Churches to partner in Tommy's "Next Right Step" Ministry
- Healing for Adam in midst of medical tests
- Mike Whitehead for full recovery from infection
- May Larry's brother continue to recover well from surgery
- Lord's presence with Kathleen's mother Doris battling cancer & grief
- Thanks for Ann Vander Linden continued recovery from surgery
- Grace and Godspeed for Jim McAlister's writing project
- Lord's hand on our local, state, & national leaders
- Light of the Lord on FH loved ones not knowing Jesus
- Health for Dawn Costello's uncle who has cancer
- Encouragement for Schumann Brewer
- Open doors in Frank's prison work
- Health for Doug's grandmother & Sam's mother
- Lord help those with chronic pain in our number
- Lord bless Colby with local Christian fellowship
- Lord let our families be rooted in your ways
- Thankful that the Light is not overcome by darkness
- Let us behold your coming in our lives & the fullness of time

A Prayer for Jesus Coming into World

Come, O come, and be our God-with-us
O long-sought With-ness for a world without,
O secret seed, O hidden spring of light.
Come to us Wisdom, come unspoken Name,
Come Root, and Key, and King, and holy Flame.
O quickened little wick so tightly curled,
Be folded with us into time and place,
Unfold for us the mystery of grace
And make a womb of all this wounded world.
O heart of heaven beating in the earth,
O tiny hope within our hopelessness
Come to be born, to bear us to our birth,
To touch a dying world with new-made hands
And make these rags of time our swaddling bands.

A King who comes to give away his crown,
A King within our rags of flesh and bone.
We pierce the flesh that pierces our disguise,
For we ourselves are found in you alone.
Come to us now and find in us your throne,
O King within the child within the clay,
O hidden King who shapes us in the play
Of all creation. Shape us for the day
Your coming Kingdom comes into its own.

(Prayer from Malcombe Guite of Cambridge, England)

Why the Incarnation of the Son? One Reason Illustrated

There was once a king who loved a humble maiden. The wealth of his holdings was unfathomable and his strength unmatched. And yet this mighty king was melted by love for a humble maiden who lived in the poorest village in his vast kingdom. He longed to go to this maiden and announce his love for her, but here arose the king's dilemma: how to declare his love? Certainly, he could appear before her resplendent in his royal robes and surrounded with the Royal Guard, ready to carry her away in a carriage inlaid with gold and precious stones. She would surely not resist this type of proposal, for no one dared to resist the king.

But would there be love?

She might say she loved him. She might be awed by his royal splendor and tremble at the thought of being blessed with such an amazing opportunity. She might tell herself that she would be foolish to reject such a marriage proposal. But would she love him, or would she go through the motions all the while living a life of empty duty, nursing a private grief for the life she had left behind? Would she love him or regret the moment of being face to face with the overwhelming grandeur of the king?

He did not want a wife who would be cringing at his word and unwilling to do anything but agree with all he said and did. Instead, he wanted an equal, a queen whose love knew no restrictions or limitations. The love shared between them would cross the chasm that threatened to keep them apart, bringing the king and peasant together and making the unequal equal.

He had to find a way to win the maiden's love without overwhelming her and without destroying her power of choice. The king realized that to win the maiden's love, he had only one choice. He had to become like her, without power or riches or status. Only then would she be able to see him for who he was. He had to become her equal, and to do this he must leave all that he had.

And so one night, after all within the castle were asleep, he laid aside his golden crown and removed his rings of state. He took off his royal robes of silk and linen and redressed himself in the common clothes of the poorest of the kingdom. Leaving by way of the servant's entrance, the king left his crown and his castle. As the next day's sun rose in the east, the maiden emerged from her humble cottage to find herself face to face with a stranger, a common man with kindly eyes who requested an opportunity to speak with her and, in time, to court her for her hand in marriage.

Both set upon a great adventure, that continues still. (Redacted from Soren Kierkegaard et al.)

Possible Themes for Advent by the Week - The Season of Light Celebrating the Incarnation

1st Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week
Expectation	Annunciation	Proclamation	Fulfillment
Hope	Love	Joy	Peace
John the Baptizer	Mary	Shepherds	Angels
Wilderness	Bethlehem	Fields	Manger
Waiting	Accepting	Journeying	Birthing
Zachariah's Song	John Baptizer's Song	Mary's Song	Angel's Song
Prophets	John the Baptizer	Mary	Magi



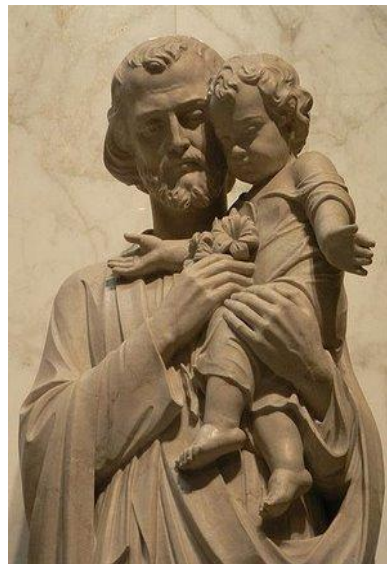
THE WISE STILL SEEK HIM

Christ the newborn king
 Humble born as angels sing--
 Rafter doves take wing

 Infant son asleep
 Savior eyed by woolen sheep--
 Tucked in manger deep

 Mother keeps in sight
 A star in the east shines bright--
 Silent holy night

J. Ellen Fedder (in Haiku form)



Joseph
 Who
 loved as his own
 what
 was not his
 nor
 could ever be his
 but
 whom he protected
 and
 watched grow so
 contradiction
 could
 bloom in mystery
 and
 scatter blood seed
 to
 root in despair
 and blossom white
 as
 his staff of lilies

J. Janda

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR THE FH ANNUAL FAMILY RETREAT ON FEBRUARY 4TH AND 5TH!
 Make sure you plan on being there--no matter what it takes! A time of renewing and creating friendships, a time to play and laugh, a time to grow and fellowship!

CLASSES AND WORSHIP SCHEDULE @ FOREST HOME:

Classes begin at 9 am. Worship begins at 10 am.

Grades and ages break down as follow:

Pre-K – Kindergarten

1st grade – 4th grade

5th grade and up

2010-2011 Calendar

EACH TUESDAY	6:30 am @ the church, Men's Ministry
EACH WED.	5:00 pm @ the church, Women's Bible Study
December 19	FH Annual Christmas Play
December 19	Orphan letters due
January 9	Dinner-on-the-Grounds for Cheyenne & Priscilla
February 4-5	Annual FH Family Retreat

DATE	NURSERY (Infants to 2 yrs old) During sermon only	LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION	WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER PREP
Dec 19	Kacy Pantall	Dec/Jan	Christys
Dec 26	Alethea Goodman	Feb/Mar	Allens
Jan 2	Kathleen Stewart	Apr/May	Grimensteins
Jan 9	Anita Christy		
Jan 16	Ocie Garner		
Jan 23	Barbara Jenkins		
		(Sub-Grimensteins) See Jim G. with questions.	
			Dec 22
			Dec 29
			Jan 5
			Jan 12
			Jan 19
			Jan 26
			Sarah/Kathleen
			Lisa/Dawn
			Linda/Lois
			Ocie/Shannon
			Pat/Karen
			Sarah/Kathleen