

This Week

- Churchwide**
Worship Services
Sunday, 9:00–10:15 AM or 10:30–11:45 AM
Bible Fellowships
Sunday, 9:00–10:15 AM or 10:30–11:45 AM
Hymns for Him Christmas
Wednesday, 6:30–8:30 PM in the Loft
- Small Groups**
Women’s Community Group
Sunday, 5:30–7:30 PM in the Loft
Men
Samson Society
Thursday, 7:00–8:30 PM in the Library

Coming Soon

Wednesday Night Studies Begin January 6

We have several new opportunities in the spring semester for you to learn and grow on Wednesday nights. If you’re looking for deeper biblical knowledge, a better understanding of yourself and others, or relationship guidance, consider making the time to attend. Get details and sign up in the Main Hall this morning!



This Morning

Lesson 1: Before His Incarnation, Part One—*John 1:1–3*
Tom Rodgers, Lead Pastor

- I. The Word and God:** The Word eternally exists as a co-equal member of the Godhead—*John 1:1*.
A. His preexistence: Before the present kosmos came into existence, the Son of God already existed (Micah 5:2).
B. His name: Before His incarnation and the creation of the present kosmos, the Son of God was known as the Word (Greek *logos*).
C. His deity: The Word (*Logos*) is part of the triune Godhead or trinity, which is a non-biblical term used to describe the one true God Who eternally exists in three distinct persons.
 - The Bible teaches that there is only one true God—*Deuteronomy 4:35*.
 - The Bible refers to three distinct persons as God (the Father—John 6:27; the Son—Titus 2:13; the Spirit—Acts 5:3–4).
 - The Bible specifies that these three distinct persons make up the Godhead—*Isaiah 6:3 and Matthew 28:19*.
 - The conclusion is that “there is only one God, but in the unity of the Godhead there are three eternal and co-equal Persons, the same in substance, but distinct in subsistence” (Charles C. Ryrie).
- D. His eternity:** Before His incarnation, the Son of God has always existed—*Psalms 90:2; John 8:58*.
E. His activity: Throughout eternity past, God the Son basked in the beauty and integrity of the trinity and savored the divine knowledge to plan the best possible world out of all the infinite number of options. He wanted them sent along their way well.
 - Regarding beauty and integrity:** Along with the entire trinity, the Son of God possesses an infinite degree of beauty and integrity and an infinite capacity to appreciate both.
 - Regarding knowledge and wisdom:** As part of the triune Godhead, the Son of God innately knows everything, both actual and possible, and how best to use it to plan the best possible world.
- F. The Word and Creation:** The Word was the divine agent through which the created order was spoken into existence (Colossians 1:15-17)—*John 1:2–3*.

Advent, Week Three

As we enter Week Three of this Advent season, we examine the spiritual discipline of joy. We look at what the Scriptures say about joy as it relates to our circumstances and emotions, as well as how and when we are called to rejoice.

Monday: Psalm 118:24

What does this verse tell you about joy? How can this help you to practice rejoicing?

Tuesday: Psalm 4:6–8

What does David say is the source of our joy? Where is this evident in your own life?

Wednesday: Psalm 27:5–7

What affect should dark or unsettling circumstances have on our joy? Do you ever let circumstances or fear rob you of joy?

Thursday: 1 Peter 4:13

Why does Peter tell us that we should rejoice in suffering? What does it mean to share in Christ’s suffering?

Friday: Isaiah 35:10

What is the source of joy in this verse? How can you relate right now to the people experiencing joy here?

Saturday: 1 John 1:1–4

What does John say brings their completeness of joy? How can you pursue this kind of joy?

A photograph of Christmas decorations, including a large round ornament, a small gift box, and pine branches.