

# GOSPEL OF JOHN

## *Light in the Dark*

In him was life and that life was the light of all humankind; the light shines in the darkness and the darkness can not overcome it, understand it, contain it. (*John 1:4-5*) The true light that gives life was coming into the world. (*John 1:9*) This is the verdict: Light has come into the world but the people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. (*John 3:19*) I am the Light of the World whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life. (*John 8:12*)

**The light is on in the gospel of John.** It shines everywhere for everybody. It isn't overcome by the dark. It shines to give life, but people love darkness. Nevertheless the light keeps shining. Jesus keeps calling people to himself and out of the dark. We see the light coming into the darkness over and over in John.

Today we see it again. Jesus sees a blind man and tells his disciples, "while I am in the world, I am the light of the world." (*John 9:5*) How does all this make sense for the man born blind? For us? What does the journey from the dark to the light include? Where does it start? Where does it lead?

Get ready to discover as we read John 9. Get ready to say, "I was blind but now I see."

### Contact Information

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# GOSPEL OF JOHN



arbor dale PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 18, 2018

## Welcome!

We are grateful that you joined us today for worship and would love to keep in touch.

We have a nursery for infants and toddlers. After the Passing of the Peace, Pre-K through 2nd Grade continue to worship upstairs.

After the service, please join us downstairs for refreshments provided by Arbor Dale's Joy Group.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Refreshments for next Sunday:**

Peace Group. Contact Isabel Peterson 828-393-9361.

### **FAF schedule for February:**

Thursday, Feb. 22 - Truck 10:00 a.m.

Friday, Feb. 23 - Distribution 8:15 a.m.

We appreciated your food donations!

Find out more about Feeding Avery Families: [www.feedingaveryfamilies.org](http://www.feedingaveryfamilies.org)

### **Small Study Groups for Lent:**

Tim and Debby Davis's small group will be meeting every Thursday at 6:30pm for 7 weeks beginning Feb. 22.

We have the sign-up sheet or you can us at 865-607-9062. Other small groups are Gene/Gayle Smith (321-501-8237) and Nils/Isabel Peterson (828-964-1402).

# Prayer of preparation

O Jesus, light of the world, come into the dark places of this earth.

You bring a light from God that only you can shed.

Light eternal, your light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

We bring to you the darkness of our world in war, starvation, cruelty, and exploitation. We bring to you the darkness of our earth, damaged and defaced by pollution.

We bring to you the darkness of our nation, beset with conflict of race and class, religion and politics.

We bring to you the darkness of our relationships, people not looking, not speaking, not listening, not forgiving. We bring to you the darkness of our own souls, hidden closets we have not visited or cleaned out for years.

O Jesus, light of the world, be a morning star above for us, a radiance within, the shining all around that lets us live in love. Only then shall we be reflectors of your brightness and give glory to God in heaven. Amen.

\* Congregation Stands

## Service for the Lord's Day ————— February 18, 2018

### Greeting

Leader: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you.

### Welcome & Announcements

#### \* Call to Worship

Leader: Send me your light and your faithful care.

All: Let them lead me;

Leader: let them bring me to your holy mountain,

All: to the place where you dwell.

Leader: Then I will go to the altar of God,

All: to God, my joy and my delight.

Leader: I will praise you with the lyre,

All: O God, my God.

#### \* Opening Hymn

#293 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

#### \* Opening Prayer

#### \* Hymn of Praise

#562 Be Thou My Vision

#### \* Call to Confession

The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. We are those people, so let us confess our sin to God.

#### \* Confession

O God, our guide, who once used a star to lead people to Christ, we confess our poor sense of direction. We let ourselves become confused, easily distracted, and lose our way. We fail to follow the signs you provide. Forgive our waywardness, O God.

#### \* Assurance of Pardon

~1 John 1:5-7

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not

do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

#### \* The Gloria Patri and Passing the Peace

#### Children's Sermon

#### Prayers of the People

#### Scripture and Sermon

**Week 12** John 9

I Was Blind. Now I See

#### Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Leader: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

#### Offering and Offertory

#### \* Affirmation of Faith

*The Apostles Creed*

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.*

#### \* Hymn of Dedication

#563 Open My Eyes That I May See

#### \* Benediction