

# Merry Christmas



## The Love of Christ

BY PASTOR DON GARDNER

Almost there! As the 2nd most important and celebrated feast of the Christian Calendar, only following Easter, Christmas is surrounded with the history and peace incorporated in the birth of Jesus Christ. Yet, the commercialism brought by "Black Friday Sales" that come immediately after Thanksgiving impact the meaning and emphasis of what our view of Christmas has become.

The "Christmas Season" is a term that has come to incorporate the time frame between Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. While not intended to match the same basic period of Advent, that does seem to be what has happened. Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas (the Sunday closest to November 30) and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is meant to be a time of spiritual focus as we pray and seek to reflect on what Christ means to us. For many believers, the act of fasting is done during some of these days much in line with what was done by the church for the first few centuries following Christ's resurrection and ascension to heaven.

Advent is the "preparation season" as the Love of Christ must take centerstage in the believer's life. With the secularization and commercialization that surrounds us, retaining clarity toward the active love of God for us is important. Christ's Birth is simply about the Love of God toward His followers. May we learn the meaning of "Love" from the greatest teacher that ever lived.

## UPCOMING

**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**

**December 19th |**  
Joint Christmas Service

**December 24th |**  
Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service

# FCBC Order of Worship

## Sunday, December 19th, 2021

**Welcome & Prayer** | Deacon Larry Yap

**Music** | Choir

**Carols** | Congregation

**Video** | IMB Lottie Moon Offering

**Special Music** | Joy Pan & Lan Qiu

**Advent Candle & Prayer** | Deacon Jim & Karen Loui

**Message** | Pastor Dillon Le

**Response Hymn** | Congregation

**Special Music** | Children's Ministry

**Prayer** | Pastor Don Gardner

**Musical Benediction** | Joy Pan & Lan Qiu

## "God's Sovereign Love"

**1 Peter 2:18-25**

**Pastor Dillon Le**

(Translation by Ding Xiaoning)

- We suffer because of sin in the world (v. 18-20)
- Jesus knows suffering well (v. 21-23)
- Jesus suffered to save us from our sin (v. 24-25)

## Announcements

**Dec. 19th @ 9:30AM**

### **Christmas Bilingual Service**

Worship together with familiar Christmas carols and special musical performances this Sunday. Bible study classes will meet following service. Livestreaming is available.

**Dec. 24th @ 6:00PM**

### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Join us for an evening of worship and celebration during our candlelight service. Livestreaming is available.

### **December Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**

Please prayerfully consider giving to missions in addition to your regular tithe for the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Our church goal is \$12,000.

*"Worthy are you,  
our Lord and God,  
to receive glory  
and honor and  
power, for you  
created all things,  
and by your will  
they existed and  
were created."*

**REVELATION 4:11**

