

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

January, 2023

The Revealing Light of God

Many years ago, Carla and I were heading through New Mexico, on our way to Arizona, and we stopped at Carlsbad Caverns. It's in a remote area near the border of Texas to the south – not all that far from El Paso. In those days, we wanted to see as much of the United States and its National Parks and Monuments as we could, and this was an opportunity to visit one that we may not otherwise have another chance to see.

To get into the caverns you have to take a long elevator ride 754 ft. down. Once you get off the elevator in what they call the Big Room, the Park Ranger gives you some safety information and a little orientation ... and then they turn off the lights. (They warn you before they do it so nobody panics.)

When the lights go out, it is total darkness. Not only is it impossible to see the cavern, or anyone around you, you are not even able to see your hand if you put it right up to your nose. There is no light there – no light at all, nothing is visible.

But then the lights go on. And this is when you notice the beauty of the cavern. Now, you saw it when you first got off the elevator, a brief look around before the orientation; but because you experience total darkness, the vividness of what is around you now stands out in sharp contrast. You have a much greater appreciation for the beauty of what you see in this huge room in the cavern; but even more, you have a much greater

appreciation for light itself – a *true* appreciation for light itself. And you get a sense of what it's like when light enters a place of utter darkness.

Having just celebrated the birth of Jesus, we have another sense of what it meant for light to have entered a world of darkness. The Apostle John said about Jesus, "In Him was life, and that life was the light of men." The prophet Isaiah prophesied about His light. He said:

1 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan —

2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

Isaiah 9:1-2

That was about Jesus' coming. His light was to come to the people walking in darkness and in the shadow of death.

And Jesus said of Himself:

"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 more you read in the Scriptures about the light of Christ, the more fascinating it is, because His light revealed so much that was hidden in darkness – so much that needed to be revealed. And Jesus, being the light, could see what others could not see – even in the souls of men. John made

(Continued on next page)

REVEALING

Revealing what was in the hearts of men was what God had been doing throughout history. We see it in what God said to Adam and Eve, and the serpent, in the Garden of Eden when they had sinned. We see it as God warned Cain when he was contemplating killing Abel, his brother. We see it when God's Spirit contended with men in the days of Noah before the flood. We see it with Joseph and with Daniel in their prophetic dreams and interpretations. Their visions were revealing the hearts of those in the immediate times, as well as about what was to come. The LORD, through Moses, revealed the hearts of people, and the prophets revealed the hearts of the kings. All of this was to prepare the world for Jesus to come, as the light of the world, to reveal all that was hidden in darkness.

And now that Jesus has come, the revelation continues. The message of Christ, the good news of the kingdom and of eternal life, has been unveiled and released to the world. Jesus reigns in the hearts of those who have believed – those who have received Him – and the light of the world now shines from within those who have Christ Jesus dwelling in their hearts. And the Spirit of God still contends with the hearts of men to reveal their need for the Living Christ Jesus: to reveal the darkness of sin in their hearts, and reveal that Jesus died for the remission of sins, and rose to give them eternal life.

Job said of God:

22 He reveals the deep things of darkness and brings deep shadows into the light.

Job 12:22

And the prophet Amos:

13 He who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals his thoughts to man, he who turns dawn to darkness, and treads the high places of the earth – the LORD God Almighty is his name.

Amos 4:13

God reveals His thoughts to man. Have you ever considered how remarkable and amazing that is? ... Light has come to expel the darkness, to expose our hearts, and to reveal the salvation and remission of sins that Jesus came to give. In spite of our sins, God loved us, and sent Jesus, as light and life, to redeem us, and offer eternal life for all who receive Him. The light of God shines then on the beauty of what He has done.

What is God revealing to you in light of all this? What are His thoughts for you today? What is He revealing in *your* soul? ... Don't miss the opportunity. Listen to God.

Listen to the words of Daniel:

20 ... "Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever;

wisdom and power are his.

21 He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them.

He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.

22 He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him."

Daniel 2:20-22

Blessings in Jesus,

Pastor Pete



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Published by:

Sunny Place Church of God
901 E Oak St, Addison IL 60101
Church Office (630) 530-1830
Editor: Lynn Drury

Senior Pastor: Peter Weber
Treasurer: Glenda Kasza
Elders: Sam Jacob, President
Phyllis Clark, Vice President
Nona Koivula, Secretary
Ted Gehman, Director
Erik Wiechering, Director

TLC

Together Loving Christ

Are you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

Join with us in our Adult Study Group
Via Zoom every
Thursday at 7:00 p. m.

Grow in the Word!



Sunny Place Church is open for Sunday Morning Services

We are happy to announce that the COVID-19 policy at Sunny Place has come to an end. The level of risk has lowered significantly to the point where we can allow masks to be optional. There will also be no social distancing limits or roped off pews.

We are grateful to God for taking us through this unusual and challenging ordeal. He has kept us safe and provided for us in many ways so that we could continue in worship and ministry throughout the entire fourteen plus months.

We will continue using Zoom for some waiting to finish getting vaccinated or transitioning to in-person activity. If not vaccinated and have not had COVID-19, we recommend you wear a mask. But the decision is up to you.

Our Sunday Morning Worship Services and Mid-Week meetings, are also being held on Zoom. Please send us an email with your name and contact information to: sunnyplacecog@gmail.com to request a link to be sent to you

Visit us at: **www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org**



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ

Elders Minutes of Meeting held Dec 7, 2022

Attended by Pastor Pete Weber, Phyllis Clark, Erik Wiechering, Ted Gehman, Sam Jacob and Nona Koivula

Prayer and Devotion: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15 KJV "And we beseech you brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves. Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men."

Ministry Reports

Treasurer: Budgeted Bank Balance \$1,018.17 Giving \$10,869.38 Expenses \$20,736.44 Faith Promise \$9,293

Worship & Prayer: All were invited to sing Christmas Hymns and share dinner at the Wiechering home Saturday Dec. 3.

Christian Education & Fellowship: Laura Grafer was appointed as co-leader of the Fellowship Ministry team.

Pastoral Care & Encouragement: The ministry continues to care for those in need and show concern with wellness, encouragement, birthday or anniversary cards.

Outreach & Missions: Our missionaries LeAnn and Larry Sellers were our guests on Sunday Dec 4. They shared their experiences serving Jesus in Cote d'Ivoire, Africa. The Sermon included videos of their recently graduated leaders, worship and the communities they embrace. They will be returning to Africa in January and asked for our continued prayers.

Stewardship & Support Services: The church buildings and grounds are maintained by this ministry team.

New and Old Business

Dr. Chris Cottrell was our guest speaker on Sunday Dec. 11.

There will be Worship Service Christmas Day at 10:45am. There will not be Adult Bible Class.

Next Elders meeting 5:30pm January 4th

Sunny Place Church - January Events



Soup Contest

At Sunny Place Church
Sunday, January 8th
12:30 in Fellowship Hall

We need everyone to
come and be a
contestant or judge.
for some really nice
warm, winter soup.

Prizes will be awarded
Check with Laura
Grafer for details

You are Invited

2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon
Saturday, January 14th, 11:30 am
Sunny Place Church
Free for Seniors 55+



Register at 630/398-2314

'Praying Together Time with Jesus'



Sunday, January 15th

STAY & PRAY

All are invited to stay in the Sanctuary
after Worship Service to pray together for our
church family and loved ones listed on the
Church Bulletin



Sunday, January 22nd
After Worship Service
In Fellowship Hall



Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

"Faith in Action"

A study of the Book of James
Led by Pastor Pete

Sunday Worship Services, 10:45 a.m.

In-person and on Zoom

7:00 p.m.



"The Holy Spirit - His Fruit and Spiritual Gifts"

Led by Pastor Pete
In Person and on Zoom

Our Sunday Worship Services, and Thursday night Bible Study will be held at the scheduled times.
If you would like to join us for a service or study via ZOOM, send an email with your name and contact information
to: sunnyplacecog@gmail.com to request a link to be sent to you.
You can also listen to the audio sermons, within a few days afterwards, by selecting either version on:
sunnyplacechurch.org/resources/audio-sermons.