

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

*Isaiah 9:2 (CSB)*

## Lights, Please

When we moved into our house, the neighborhood had few street lights. One night I checked the bolt on the front door, feeling my way to the darkened entrance. When I headed back toward the bedroom, I tripped into the sunken front room, falling with a 1796 grandfather clock. It tipped and landed with a thud on the arm of a small couch. My face bounced off the edge of the clock. Stunned, I wiped my hand across my face. When I turned on the light, bloody prints covered the switch plate and wall. Darkness sends us to unintended places.

Joseph and Mary's inconvenient travel to Bethlehem for a mandatory census must have elicited numerous fearful thoughts. Do you think they carried a heavy weight of uncertainty and shame? Did they wonder if they were ready to be the parents of God's Son? They must have longed for light to dispel this darkened ninety-mile trek.

Yet, in the middle of their darkness, God birthed light. A light to dispel rumors, offer hope, and wipe away sin. In that dingy stable meant for animals, the Light of the World was born far from the world's spotlight because spotlights don't point people to God, but to themselves. And Jesus' mission was always to point people to His Father.

We in North America celebrate Christmas in the middle of what can be a dreary time of year. It reminds us that we often need His help during the winter seasons of life.

Do you need a little light this Christmas? Jesus, the Light of the World, is closer to you than you think.

*Sally Cressman is an award-winning author whose debut picture book publishes in May 2024 with Wren & Bear Books. She writes to celebrate faith, family, and home. Connect with her on Instagram or at [sallyacressman.com](http://sallyacressman.com).*

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# A SAVIOR IS BORN

*Then she gave birth  
to her firstborn son,  
and she wrapped him  
tightly in cloth  
and laid him in a manger,  
because there was no  
guest room available for them.*

LUKE 2:7 (CSB)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SAPPONY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Michael Dickey

December 24, 2023

[www.sapponybaptist1773.org](http://www.sapponybaptist1773.org)

Invocation and Welcome

Hymn No. 87 "Joy to the World"

Hymn No 91 "Silent Night"

Missionary Prayer Calendar Nancy Lacerte

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn No. 103 "Away in a Manger"

Scripture Luke 1:46-55

Sermon Rev. Mike Dickey

"My Soul Magnifies the Lord"

Hymn No. 108 "Love Came Down at Christmas"

Benediction

The Wednesday group is taking a break over the holiday season. We look forward to beginning a new study after the first of the year.

To subscribe to our text alerts, text "JOIN" to 804-430-6282. We send out prayer requests and reminders.

Be sure to look for our Daily Devotional on our website:  
[sapponybaptist1773.org](http://sapponybaptist1773.org)

Missed a sermon? Or just want to hear it again? Our Past sermons are available on our website, Facebook, Youtube, and your favorite podcast app.

WISHING EVERYONE A VERY MERRY  
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR