



GLENDALE CITY CHURCH OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Finding God at the Intersection of Our Lives



December 2, 2017

610 East California Avenue, Glendale, CA 91206
818-244-7241 • glendalecitychurch.org

“Revealing Christ, affirming all”

Scripture Reading**Luke 1:46-55 (NRSV)**

Colette Witt

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed.

For the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Worship in Music

"Sonata in G Minor — Presto"
Ruben Aghiyan, *violin*

*J. S. Bach***Sermon**

"THE GIFT OF HOPE: Johnny Ramirez-Johnson
The Christmas Story — Sacrifice or Family Affair?"

Call to Offering

Johnny Ramirez-Johnson

Offertory

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"
Ruben Aghiyan, *violin*

arr. J. H. Hopkins

(Unless otherwise marked, loose offering goes to local church expense)

Hymn of Response

"Joy to the World"

No. 125

Benediction

Johnny Ramirez-Johnson

(Please be seated after the benediction)

Postlude

"Improvisation on *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*" Myron J. Roberts

Whether you're a regular member or a visitor, we encourage you to continue to fellowship with our Church family after the worship service. Please also feel free to contact any of our pastoral staff (or fill out the Connection Card located in your pew holder) if you have questions or feedback, need a visit or help, or wish to assist in any way!



SERMON RESOURCES

1. STEP ONE: The Christmas Story is about searching for a feeling.

We all search for a mixture of feelings, like: “I hope to be happy.” Give it a try and name the feelings you search for: “I hope to feel or be _____.”

Let’s take a look at Jack (*C. S. Lewis*):

“Jack lived by scholarly logic and intelligence and the wish to keep his soul unfettered. Yet in spite of himself, Jack’s imagination drew him to myth and story. In an ineffable flashback, he was transported to an early morning at the Old House when his brother Warnie brought a little terrarium into the nursery. Within the childhood memory, Jack was overwhelmed by a feeling: a sensation of desire. Before Jack could capture a glimpse of that which he desired, the powerful feeling was gone. The world had turned commonplace again. Jack was captivated by this longing, the unsatisfied desire that is itself more desirable than any other pleasure. He named the feeling Joy.” — Karen Wright Marsh, *Vintage Saints and Sinners: 25 Christians Who Transformed My Faith*, InterVarsity Press, p. 25

2. STEP TWO: The Christmas Story is about what we do to deal with pain.

The feelings we rather avoid, you may call it _____ (fear, hate, anger...).

“One moment last night can be described in similes; otherwise it won't go into language at all. Imagine a man in total darkness. He thinks he is in a cellar or dungeon. Then there comes a sound. He thinks it might be a sound from far off — waves or wind-blown trees or cattle half a mile away. And if so, it proves he's not in a cellar, but free, in the open air. Or it may be a much smaller sound close at hand — a chuckle of laughter. And if so, there is a friend just beside him in the dark. Either way, a good, good sound. I'm not mad enough to take such an experience as evidence for anything. It is simply the leaping into imaginative activity of an idea which I would always have theoretically admitted — the idea that I, or any mortal at any time, may be utterly mistaken as to the situation he is really in.” — C. S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed*, Zondervan 2001, pp. 63-64

3. The Christmas Story is about the options we have to deal with pain.

OPTION A — “Logic & Science”

“‘Dearest daughter,’ said Aslan, planting a lion’s kiss on her twitching, velvet nose, ‘I knew you would not be long in coming to me. Joy shall be yours.’ Then he lifted his head and spoke in a louder voice. ‘Now, Bree,’ he said, ‘you poor, proud, frightened Horse, draw near. Nearer still, my son. Do not dare not to dare. Touch me. Smell me. Here are my paws, here is my tail, these are my whiskers. I am a true Beast.’ ‘Aslan,’ said Bree in a shaken voice, ‘I’m afraid I must be rather a fool.’” — C. S. Lewis, *The Chronicles of Narnia, Vol V: The Horse and His Boy*, Enrich Culture Group Limited, 2016, p. 149

OPTION B—“Feelings and Myths”

“Like Lucy, I fumble and hide. Yet I, too, experience the unplanned, uncontrolled incursions of God into my life. On the most ordinary of days there are the good, good sounds of my daughter, Nan, as she sings beyond her bedroom door. Of Henry’s unexpected voice booming through the phone. Of Charles muttering a line of poetry to himself. Of Will’s band, Gold Connections, rocking out over the radio. The good, good sounds of the people I love. Illuminations of Joy. I find that I am in the free, open air after all.” — Karen Wright Marsh, *Vintage Saints and Sinners: 25 Christians Who Transformed My Faith*, InterVarsity Press, p. 36

4. The story itself: Sacrifice or Family Affair? Sacrifice to appease the wrath of God, to pay the price.

Option A—Sacrifice

It is about the words you declare—the doctrine of atonement

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (NRSV) “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Option B—Family Affair

It is about embracing our giver of hope—feeling the story

Luke 1:26-38 (NRSV) “In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

It was never about what you believe; it is always about what you choose to feel, by what you choose to do.

“Jack lived by scholarly logic and intelligence and the wish to keep his soul unfettered. Yet in spite of himself, Jack’s imagination drew him to myth and story.” — Karen Wright Marsh, *Vintage Saints and Sinners: 25 Christians Who Transformed My Faith*, InterVarsity Press, p. 25

I invite you to reach out to the one beside you and grasp their hand... at church we can choose to feel “fettered”, tied, in community. Do you feel the life in that hand? Now during the week continue “fettered” via human touch to God.

Courtyard Café

Join us *EVERY* Saturday morning at
9:00am for breakfast and fellowship.

Come hungry and bring a friend!



Children's & Teen Programs

BREAKFAST & FELLOWSHIP

9 am - 10:30 am - Courtyard

PRAISE TIME

10:33 am - Sanctuary

Dismissed to City Kids Worship for all ages at 11:10 am

0-3 YEARS Room 2
(Parent must be present)

4-7 YEARS Room 1

8-10 YEARS Room 3

11-13 YEARS Room 4

TEENS

11:10 am - Open Door Cafe'



Join us the 3rd Saturday of each month at 6:30pm for Courtyard Campfire
Upcoming dates: Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 16, Jan. 20, Feb. 17, Mar. 17

Please note that, with our new worship service format, **children need to be picked up** by their parent/guardian from their appropriate classroom when the worship service is concluded. Children will not be released from Sabbath School class without a parent or guardian present.

CHURCH LIFE

All are welcome— whoever you are, whatever your journey or background. God excludes no one, and neither do we.

Prayer Concerns: **Paula Weisbard** has asked for prayers for healing for her **niece Beverly**.

There will be *no* Church potlucks for and December. However, the *Gifts of Christmas* program will have meal fellowship opportunities. Please check with the flyer/schedule in the bulletin.

We extend a warm welcome to our guest violinist today, **Ruben Aghiyan!**

Change of meeting location for Sabbath School classes: The Living Project will be meeting in the south side of the Fellowship Hall. For December only, the Sabbath School Quarterly class will meet in the sanctuary.

Interested in joining a **Spanish-speaking Sabbath School class**? Please contact Pastor Johnny Ramirez-Johnson as we make plans to start this program soon!

Quilts for Sale. Prayers and Squares Ministry have quilts for sale. Crafted with care, make great gifts! See or contact Evie Salzmann 213-369-6898, or see the Church Facebook for the Quilt Catalog. Thanks!

Be Aware of Fake Pastoral Emails. For the past few months, emails using Todd Leonard's name have been sent to staff and church members asking for them to arrange wire transfers and other creative financial transactions. Please know that Todd will never send you an email like that. **Todd's only email is: todd.j.leonard@gmail.com**

FREE PETTING ZOO!

Saturday, December 16th

9:00 - 10:40 am

Join us for Coffee, Hot Cocoa & Pastries!

***Enjoy animals
like the ones that
welcomed baby Jesus***



HOME COMING 2018

Saturday, February 10th

- 9:00 Courtyard Café Breakfast
9:30 Reinder Bruinsma, Presentation
11:00 Morning Worship
- Sanctuary: *Smuts van Rooyen & La Sierra University Choir*
 - Children: *CityKids Worship Groups*
 - High School: *Open Door Worship*
- 12:45 Fellowship Luncheon
3:00 Los Angeles Adventist Forum
with Reinder Bruinsma
5:00 Second Saturday Series Concert
with Linda Krantz, Handbell Soloist



Reinder
Bruinsma



Smuts
van Rooyen



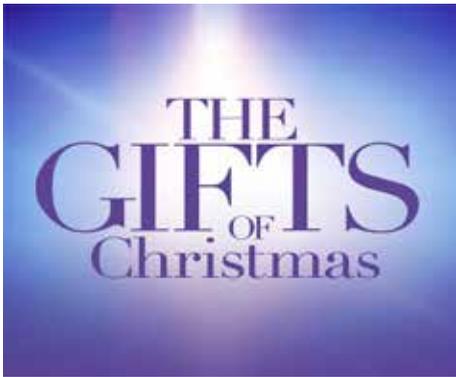
Linda Krantz



La Sierra
University
Choir



Finding God at the Intersection of Our Lives
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818.244.7241 www.GlendaleCityChurch.org



Next Weekend

DECEMBER 8 & 9

LOVE

For God so loved the world,
that he gave his only Son...



SUPPER CONVERSATION: A Christmas Wedding

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8,
7:30 P.M.,**

FELLOWSHIP HALL

Enjoy a delicious, family-style supper with live holiday music. Then dialogue with Johnny Ramirez-Johnson on this presentation, "A Christmas Wedding."



MAKING ROOM IN THE INN SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 10:40 A.M.

When Joseph & Mary looked for a room in Bethlehem, none was found. Join Pastor Todd as he ties their nomadic journey to our own seeking for safety, shelter, and rest.

*Breakfast served
in courtyard from
9-10:30 a.m.*

More Gifts to Come

The Gift of Peace

**Friday, December 15, 7:30 p.m. (JOHNNY RAMIREZ-JOHNSON)
&**

**Saturday, December 16, 10:40 a.m. (TODD LEONARD) with
Children's Petting Zoo
(9-10:30 a.m., see flyer for details)**

The Gift of Jesus

**Saturday, December 23, 10:40 a.m. (LEIF LIND) &
Saturday, December 30, 10:40 a.m. (MIKE KIM)**



Urban Liturgy



City Church and Urban Liturgy invite you to a safe gathering place for people to work out a shared spirituality. **Urban Liturgy (UL)** is an alternate space where workshop spirituality can be done through collaborative thinking and sharing.

While the term “worship” isn’t a completely accurate depiction of what takes place, **UL** sessions are intended to provide the mystical, communal, and sacred space experience that worship has been for so many others. You will find this space evolves week to week as you participate. It’s just different.

TODAY, Multipurpose Room, 3 p.m.



Christmas Mythos: The Power of Myth

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

COMING IN DECEMBER

December

2 Christmas Mythos: The Power of Myth

9 Christmas Mythos: The Power of Myth

16 Sharing Christmas–Stories, Carols, and Potluck



THANK YOU FOR INCLUDING GLENDALE CITY CHURCH ON YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT-GIVING LIST!

We depend on your generosity in December to power our church ministry into the spring.

Thanks for your commitment to our Pledge+ Giving Plan:



TITHE

*City Church Pastors
& Full-time Adventist
Ministers in Los Angeles*



CHURCH BUDGET

*All Glendale City
Church ministries,
staff & expenses*



YOUR + PROJECT

*Your monthly gift of
love to the ministry that
matters most to you*

WAYS TO GIVE

1. **CASH/CHECK:** Use a Glendale City Church **donation envelope** to turn in your gift during offering collection or mail it to: **610 E California Avenue, Glendale, 91206.**
2. **CREDIT/DEBIT CARD ONLINE:** Visit **GlendaleCityChurch.org** and click the "Give" link on our homepage. You will then be taken to our Adventist Giving portal.
3. **CREDIT/DEBIT CARD GIVING KIOSK.** Visit the **church lobby** to make your donation to City Church Budget. (Note: donations to Tithe cannot be received at the kiosk).
4. **DONATION BY STOCK.** Please contact our treasurer, Dean Vendouris, to arrange a gift from your investment portfolio: dinovan@prodigy.net, (818) 516-5006.

ELDER OF THE DAY: Mike Quishenberry

DEACON OF THE DAY: Glenda Mendizabal

ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY OPTIONS (9:30-10:30 A.M.)

- SABBATH SCHOOL QUARTERLY (TRADITIONAL)—Current study theme: “The Book of Romans”.
 - English Language Study—Note: Class will meet in the **sanctuary for December** only
 - Armenian Language Study—Room 11
 - Romanian Language Study—Room 13
- GRACE CENTER (FELLOWSHIP HALL, NORTH SIDE)—Current book study: “Facing Doubt: A Book for Adventist Believers ‘On the Margins’”. Dr. Reinder Bruinsma, longtime author, pastor, and church administrator recently retired to his native Netherlands. In this book he assures readers that God doesn’t get upset over our questions and wants us to use our freedom to look for answers — to live “creatively with [our] uncertainties and doubts”. He writes that he hopes this book will help “at least some readers to take a new ‘leap of faith’ and then (re-)connect with their church”. Come and join in the discussion!
- THE LIVING PROJECT (FELLOWSHIP HALL, SOUTH SIDE)—Social & interactive sharing of personal, cultural, religious, scientific, and scriptural stories. As we connect with our stories we seek to discover our common story in God.

SATURDAY WORSHIP OPTIONS

Morning Service
Sanctuary, 11 a.m.

Afternoon Service, Urban Liturgy
Multipurpose Room, 3 p.m.

Romanian Service
Fellowship Hall, 11 a.m.
1st, 2nd, 3rd Saturdays

Armenian Service
Chapel, 11 a.m.



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glendalecitychurch.org. Church service videos also available there or on YouTube



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Pastoral Staff

Todd Leonard, *Senior* (818-244-7241, office)
Mike Kim, *Associate* (818-468-6453)
Leif Lind, *Church Administration* (909-557-5230)
Rudy Torres, *Emeritus* (714-318-1975)

Johnny Ramirez-Johnson, *Ministry & Outreach* (909-382-1912)
Vigen Khachatryan, *Armenian* (747-231-8702)
Dorin Lataeanu, *Romanian* (909-528-2545)

Church Officers

Head Elder—John Nielsen (818-605-0057)
Head Elder—Mike Quishenberry (818-404-0406)
Head Deacon—Ronald Matusa (818-730-0350)
Head Deacon—Jerry Wahagheghe (310-963-1383)
Church Board Chair—John Nielsen (818-605-0057)
Choir Director—Clarissa Shan-Lewis (909-709-3596)
Organist—Kemp Smeal (714-658-4885);
Taylor Ruhl, *assistant* (909-557-5229)

Secretary—Victoria Lucero (glendalesda@gmail.com)
Treasurer—Dean Vendouris (818-244-7241, office)
Church Clerk—Mindi Rüb (mindilus@mac.com)
Children’s Ministries—Anji Arm (818-632-7374)
Audio Visual—Kris Wahagheghe (kris.sn.wahagheghe@gmail.com)
A+ School Board Chair—Glen Christensen (plbboss@aol.com)
A+ School Director—Malisa Smith (818-241-9353)
Facilities Administrator—Wayne Libby (760-409-6719)

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; Friday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Our church aims to be a safe campus for all members, especially children under 18. We aim to ensure that all on-campus childcare programs are led by adults who have had fingerprinting and background checks. When not in a childcare program, or with someone who is known and trusted, parents should supervise children at all times. Parents wishing to attend any worship service, Bible study, or social event should have their children stay with them in supervision, not wandering around campus with other children. Thank you for helping make this a safe environment for all!

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ADVENTIST PEACE
FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**
adventistpeace.org

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PEACE
FELLOWSHIP

