



FINDING GOD AT THE INTERSECTION OF OUR LIVES

December 30, 2023

**ON CAMPUS TODAY AT GLENDALE CITY CHURCH, DECEMBER 30:**

- 9:00 a.m.: **Courtyard Café.** Enjoy simple breakfast foods & beverages in our Fellowship Hall lobby.
- 9:30 a.m.: **Grace Sabbath School class** will not be meeting today.
- 9:30 a.m.: **The Living Project Support Group** meets weekly in the Council Room. "Telling my story. Listening to your story. Living our story."
- 11:00 a.m.: **Sanctuary worship service** with Pastor Greg Hoenes. Also available online, <https://YouTube.com/c/GlendaleCityChurch>. **Next Sabbath, January 6:** worship service with Pastor Greg Nelson.
- 11:00 a.m.: **City Kids Children's Praise**, Room 2. By 11:15 a.m.: • **Tiny Tots** (0-3 years old, together with a parent or guardian) go to Classroom 2; • **Godly Play** (4-12 years) go to Classroom 1. Noon pickup.

**OPEN TABLE WORSHIP:**

- 12:15 p.m.: Informal worship gathering downstairs in the Café. All are welcome as we share with music, story-telling, and interpersonal connections!

**THIS WEEK AT GLENDALE CITY CHURCH:**

- 7:00 p.m. **Social Jesus Heartgroup** by Herb Montgomery will not be meeting this week.





## Scripture Readings

**Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

Tom Chatt

I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

**For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow. You will be a crown of splendor in the Lord's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.**

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## Galatians 4:4-7

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

## Sermon

"Stories That Form Us"

Greg Hoenes

## Offertory

"I Wonder As I Wander"  
Christina Bristow, *soprano*

*arr. John Jacob Niles*

*(Deacons will collect the offering as we meditate on the message in music. Please give as you're able — unless otherwise marked, loose offering goes to local church expense.)*

## Hymn of Response

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

No. 191

## Benediction

Greg Hoenes

## Postlude

"Chorale Prelude *In dulce júbilo*"  
Sean O'Neal, *organ*

*Johann Sebastian Bach*



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### Preaching schedule:

- Dec 30 Greg Hoenes
- Jan 6 Greg Nelson

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR MORNING SPEAKER:

Dear Worshipping Friends,

We find ourselves in the midst of Christmas season and on the very tail end of another year, with all the possibilities that the pending new year brings. Religiously speaking we're between times. Jesus has been born — and Epiphany, the revealing of Jesus as God, has yet to manifest. The story of God with us is yet unfolding.

And it's this story that continues to define us, for as I heard Smuts Van Rooyen once opine back in 2000, the future of our people/church will be sure "when His story becomes our story..." Brilliant, right? For we are narratively formed! It's God's story, narratives of lives past, and our stories that make us who we are. And this season is about a move that goes beyond the bequeathing of God's image in creation to God adopting humanities image in redemption.

Now is a good time to revisit stories that form us. I'm thinking particularly of the way we frame the fall of humanity, and the way that a simple shift in that story can renew hope transforming our sense of who we are before God. Reframing not only works in therapy, but it works as we wrestle with faith, with hope, and with all the vulnerabilities that go with being human.

I pray you've had a joyous Christmas Eve and Day, and a meaningful Christmas season so far. I pray today will be a moment of grace and inspiration in your busy lives. And I pray that your journey from this space, time and place will move you toward a greater embrace of the Divine as revealed in Christ. — **Pastor Greg**

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We are sad to announce the death of **Kevin Boggs**, son of church member **Lola Boggs** and previously a student at Glendale Adventist Academy. His service will be held **today at 4 p.m.** in Redlands Adventist Church.

One of City Church's **former associate pastors, Casey Bahr**, passed away in Palm Springs on December 1 after a recent stroke. Bahr, together with Pastor Rudy Torres, helped establish the A+ Adventist Preschool in 1981. He last spoke at our church in November 2021. Our prayers are with Casey Bahr's family. His service will be held at the church at 3 p.m. on **January 27**.

**Glendale Noon Concert**, January 3: Jazz program with saxophonist Doug Webb and pianist Josh Nelson. All welcome to this free program; see <http://glendalenoonconcerts.blogspot.com>.