

# Christmas Questions

Advent 2021

8:30am Service  
Sunday, Dec 26, 2021

Rev. Beth Case preaching  
[John 1:1-9 \(ESV\)](#)

**Welcome and Call to Worship**

Rachel Poysky

**\*Song of Praise**

*He Shall Reign Forevermore*

**Prayer of Confession and Assurance**

Clay Brown

**Song of Response**

*Jesus Paid It All*

**Moment of Prayer**

Rachel Poysky

**Song of Preparation**

*What a Beautiful Name*

**Message**

**Christmas Questions: Why the Word & the Light?**

Beth Case

[John 1:1-9 \(ESV\)](#)

**Song of Response**

*Joy to the World*

**Opportunity to Give and Benediction**

Beth Case

Musicians in this service:

Asher Pudlo, drums; Uvaldo Callejas, bass; Nico Aranda, guitar; Nate Escobar, keys;  
Michael Middleton & Nani Nicole, worship leaders



**Sunday Worship Playlist**

[Click here to listen.](#)

**Give Online**

[give.mdpc.org](http://give.mdpc.org)

**Remember Our Mission Partners on the Front Lines of Ministry**

Each week, we pray for three of **MDPC's** local and global mission partners. During these difficult days, our partners truly covet your prayers! Visit [partners.mdpc.org](http://partners.mdpc.org) to find this week's (three) prayer recipients.



# Christmas Questions

Advent 2021

9:45am Service  
Sunday, Dec 26, 2021

Rev. Beth Case preaching  
[John 1:1-9 \(ESV\)](#)

<b>Welcome and Call to Worship</b>		Dan Aikins
<b>Song of Praise</b>	<i>He Shall Reign Forevermore</i>	
<b>Moment of Confession and Assurance</b>		Clay Brown
<b>Songs of Preparation</b>	<i>Homecoming</i> <i>What a Beautiful Name</i>	
<b>Message</b>	<b>Christmas Questions: Why the Word &amp; the Light?</b> <a href="#">John 1:1-9 (ESV)</a>	Beth Case
<b>Song of Response</b>	<i>Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)</i>	
<b>Moment of Prayer</b>		Dan Aikins
<b>Opportunity to Give and Benediction</b>		Beth Case

Musicians in this service:

Asher Pudlo, drums; Uvaldo Callejas, bass; Nico Aranda, guitar; Nate Escobar, keys;  
Michael Middleton & Nani Nicole, worship leaders



## Sunday Worship Playlist

[Click here to listen.](#)

## Give Online

[give.mdpc.org](http://give.mdpc.org)

## Remember Our Mission Partners on the Front Lines of Ministry

Each week, we pray for three of **MDPC's** local and global mission partners. During these difficult days, our partners truly covet your prayers! Visit [partners.mdpc.org](http://partners.mdpc.org) to find this week's (three) prayer recipients.

# Christmas Questions

## Advent 2021



11:15am Service  
Sunday, Dec 26, 2021

Rev. Beth Case preaching  
[John 1:1-9 \(ESV\)](#)

<b>Prelude</b>	<i>When Love Was Born</i>	Mark Schulz
<b>Welcome and Call to Worship</b>		Rachel Poysky
<b>Choral Introit</b>	<i>Break Forth, O Beauteous, Heavenly Light</i> <i>(from Christmas Oratorio)</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
<b>*Hymn of Praise</b>	<i>Go, Tell It on the Mountain</i>	#29; Vs. 1, 2   GO TELL IT
<b>*Prayer of Confession and Assurance</b>		Clay Brown
<b>*Affirmation of Faith</b>	from the Apostles' Creed	
<b>*Congregational Response</b>	<i>Angels from the Realms of Glory</i>	#22; Vs. 4   REGENT SQUARE
<b>Carol Sing</b>		Charles Hausmann
	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	#25; Vs. 1, 3   MUELLER
	<i>In the Bleak Midwinter</i>	#36; Vs. 1, 4   CRANHAM
	<i>The First Noel</i>	#56; Vs. 1, 6   THE FIRST NOEL
<b>Moment of Prayer</b>		Rachel Poysky
<b>Anthem of Preparation</b>	<i>His Light Still Shines</i>	Mary McDonald (b. 1956)
<b>Message</b>	<b>Christmas Questions: Why the Word &amp; the Light?</b> <a href="#">John 1:1-9 (ESV)</a>	Beth Case
<b>*Hymn of Response</b>	<i>Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming</i>	#48; Vs. 1, 2   ES IST EIN ROS'
<b>Opportunity to Give and Benediction</b>		Beth Case
<b>Postlude</b>	<i>Joy to the World</i>	arr. Don Hustad (1918-2013)

Musicians in this service:

Jason Amos, soloist; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ/piano

### MDPC Partners on the Front Lines of Ministry

Each week, we pray for three of MDPC's local and global mission partners. Visit [partners.mdpc.org](http://partners.mdpc.org) to find this week's (three) prayer recipients.

**Give Online**  
[give.mdpc.org](http://give.mdpc.org)

Sunday, Dec 26, 2021

# MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

To see more events at MDPC, visit [events.mdpc.org](https://events.mdpc.org).

## WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE as of Dec 19, 2021

2021 Annual Budget	\$ 11,300,000
Income to Date	\$ 10,401,196
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 898,804



### Sundays, Jan 9-30

Research shows certain marriage prep programs to be particularly effective at preventing divorce and increasing marital satisfaction. Learn more at [mlp.mdpc.org](https://mlp.mdpc.org). Engaged couples and those married up to 3 years are encouraged to join us!



### Tuesday Evenings starting Jan 11

Do you have questions about the Bible and theology? Have you ever considered attending seminary? Do you love learning? If you answered "yes" to any of those questions, we have something unique for you! Learn more at [institute.mdpc.org](https://institute.mdpc.org).



### Thursdays, Jan 13-Mar 3 • 4:30-6:00pm

Have you been grieving the loss of a loved one? Do you wonder where God is in your pain and if you will ever feel joy again? If so, you are not alone. Learn more about our 8-week grief recovery program at [grief.mdpc.org](https://grief.mdpc.org).



### Sat & Sun, Feb 26 & 27 • Registration opens Jan 9

Make a comeback! Church in the City is the annual Sunday when MDPC leaves the pews to serve our city. Save the dates and stay tuned to [citc.mdpc.org](https://citc.mdpc.org) for more details.



### Fri-Sun, Feb 18-20 • Willis, Texas

Enjoy fellowship and relaxation at the luxurious Historic Hill House, just a short drive from Houston! Come for connection, gourmet food, and a chance to rest in the presence of God, with others. Details at [getaway.mdpc.org](https://getaway.mdpc.org).



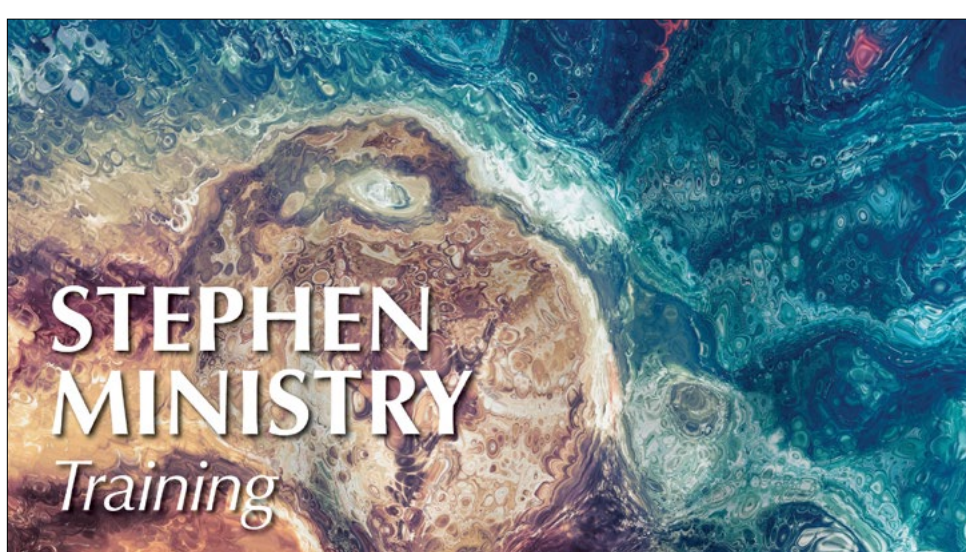
### Register Now for Spring Recreation Classes!

Kids classes include Basketball, Chess, Tumbling & Gymnastics, Abrakadoodle Art, Woodworking, Piano, Soccer, Theater, and Dance. Adults can enjoy Art, Piano, and two kinds of Yoga! Learn more and sign up at [reach.mdpc.org](https://reach.mdpc.org).



### Sundays, Jan 9-Mar 6 • 5:00-6:30pm

Make this the year you get out of debt, build security, learn to manage your money, and determine your financial future! Learn more and sign up at [fpu.mdpc.org](https://fpu.mdpc.org).

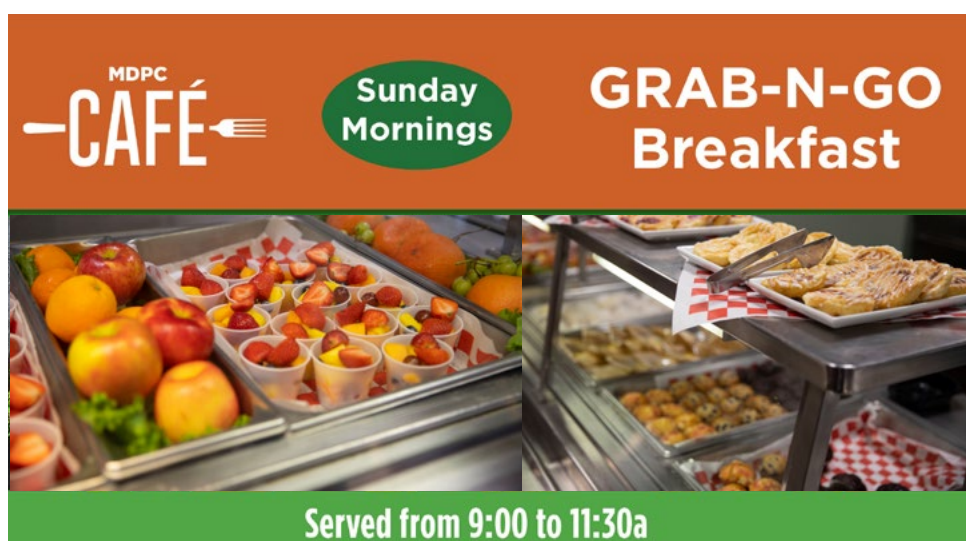


### Apply through Dec 31 • Training begins Jan 11

Have you found that people trust you to listen to their struggles? Do you enjoy supporting, caring and praying for others? If so, consider becoming a Stephen Minister. Learn more at [stephen.mdpc.org](https://stephen.mdpc.org).



Need a soft place to land? Unsure of where to go next? Learn more about our short-term counseling ministry by emailing MDPC counselor-in-residence Amanda Grace Caldwell, or visit [counseling.mdpc.org](https://counseling.mdpc.org).



### Sun mornings • MDPC Kitchen (off Fellowship Hall)

Delicious, carry-friendly options for those rushed Sundays when there's no time for breakfast! Stop by to see what items are for sale. More about the Café including lunch hours and frozen pantry options at [cafe.mdpc.org](https://cafe.mdpc.org).



### Sign up today, and pray with confidence...

God will know your Prayer Partners' needs, you just lift the dozen or so names to Him daily. Join us in this foundational MDPC ministry at [pip.mdpc.org](https://pip.mdpc.org).



### [John 1:1-9](#) • Why the Word & the Light?

This is the sixth in our Advent/Christmas series on questions surrounding Christmas. Today we look at the prologue to the Gospel of John in which Jesus is introduced as “the Word” and “the Light.” Why did John choose those titles, and what do they mean for readers then and now?

1. When have you felt the opportunity and pressure of making an introduction? What was that like for you?
2. What might it have been like for John to make this introduction of Jesus?
3. If you were introducing Jesus, what word(s) would you utilize? Explain.
4. Each of the four Gospels chronicles the narrative of Jesus from a slightly different angle. Mark opens with Jesus in early adulthood, His ministry being introduced by John the Baptist. Luke writes of Jesus as a baby; it's Luke we turn to for details of the Christmas story. Matthew considers the ancestry of Jesus, tracing His family line back to Abraham. John opens not with the details of Jesus's life and ministry, but on the purpose – on why His life and ministry happened. How might the focus of each be important both to the specific audience of each writer, and also to the overall narrative of Scripture?
5. Read Genesis 1:1-4a. What connections can you find between John 1:1-9 and the narrative of Creation?
6. The Greek words *logos* and *rhema* can both be translated into English as “word.” *Logos* refers to the entire process of communication, while *rhema* refers to one part – word(s) spoken. Knowing this, why do you suppose John chose *Logos* rather than *rhema* to introduce Jesus?
7. What can we learn from each of the following Scriptures about Jesus as *Logos* (The Word)? a) Psalm 33:6; b) Jeremiah 1:4; Ezekiel 31:1; c) Psalm 107:20.
8. When it comes to your walk with Christ, do you focus more on individual or singular *rhema* or on the totality of the revelation of God-revealed-in Christ – *Logos*? How might a focus on each one affect your walk with Christ?

