

## Order of Worship

10:50 am – 12:10 pm

**Prelude** "In dulci jubilo" *J. S. Bach*

### Entering of the Light

**Call to Worship** Leif Lind

Give thanks to the God of heaven; **his love endures forever.**  
 He gives food to all his creatures; **his love endures forever.**  
 He remembers us when we are cast down; **his love endures forever.**  
 Give thanks to the Lord of lords, **for his love endures for ever.**

**Opening Hymn** "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" No. 204

**Gifts of the Congregation: Listening Committee** Dave Ferguson

**Anthem** "Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming" *arr. Joel Raney*  
 Sanctuary Bell Choir

### Worship in Giving

Morning Offering Andrew Wortham  
 Offertory "Trépak" by Tchaikovsky *arr. D. E. Wagner*

**Children's Sermon** Cherise Gardner

**Greetings and Prayers of the Congregation** Leif Lind

### Prayer Response

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
 All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,  
 Great is Thy faithfulness! Lord unto me!

**Vocal Solo** "O Rest in the Lord" *from Elijah* *Mendelssohn*  
 Charles Lane

**Scripture** Jeanie Drake

**Sermon** "Who Likes to Wait?" Leif Lind

**Closing Hymn** "Be Still, My Soul" No. 461

**Postlude** "O Come All Ye Faithful" *Dupré*

### Sabbath School Options

Class	Age	Location	Symbols/Leaders
Beginners	0-3 yrs	Room 3	Elephant
Kindergarten	3-5 yrs	Room 4	Giraffe
Primary	6-9	Room 2	Eagle
Junior	10-13 yrs	Room 1	Lion
Teen	14-18 yrs	Room 10b	Fish
Prassô	General	Youth Center	
Armenian	General	Room 11	
Romanian	General	Room 13	
Pastor	General	Fellowship Hall	Marquita Kibble
SS Quarterly	General	Chapel	Hugh Gardner

### Worship Options

Option	Location	Sequence
Sanctuary Service	Main Sanctuary	Every Sabbath
Romanian Service	Chapel	1st and 3rd Sabbaths
Armenian Service	Chapel	2nd and 4th Sabbaths

### Activities

Event	Location	Sequence
Bell Choir	Youth Center	Friday at 8:00 pm
Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room	Sabbath at 9:15 am
Pathfinders	GAMC Gymnasium	Tuesday at 6:45 pm
Sunshine/Jubilate Singers	Room 10b	Sabbath at Noon
Bible Study	Council Room	Monday at 7:00 p.m.
Marathon Clinic	Verdugo Park	Sunday at 7:00 a.m.

### Church Directory

#### Pastors

Mitchell Henson, Senior Pastor  
 Cherise Gardner, Family & Children Ministries  
 Hovik Sarrafian, Armenian Senior Pastor  
 Vartkes Azadian, Armenian Associate Pastor  
 Dorin Lataeanu, Romanian Senior Pastor  
 Leif Lind, Church Administrator  
 Marcos Apolonio, Media Ministries

#### Officers

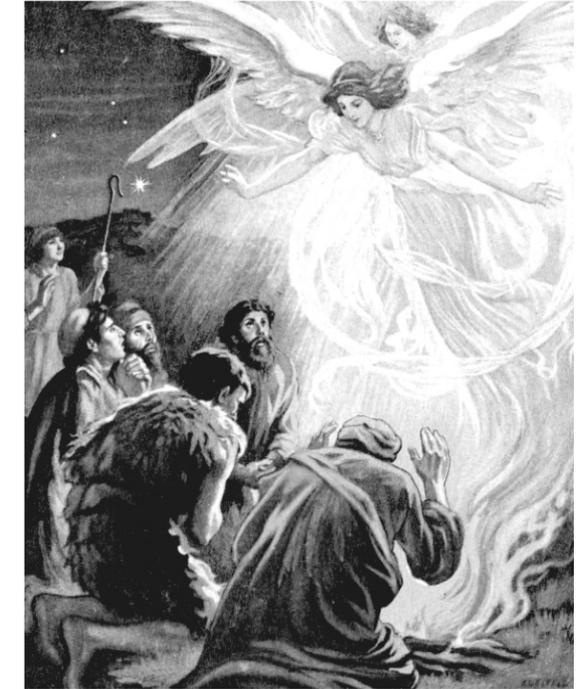
Head Elder	Don Greathouse
Head Deacon	Harold Fanselau
Head Deaconess	Eleanor Posner
Acting Church Board Chair	Vincent Haynes
Sanctuary Choir Director	Brenda Mohr
Organist	Kemp Smeal
Children's Choir Director	Lissie Quishenberry
Bell Choir Director	Ariel Quintana
Secretary	Victoria Lucero
Treasurer	Dean Vendouris
Church Clerk	Mindi Rüb
A+ School Board Chair	Andrew Cervik
A+ School Principal	Jeanie Drake
Pathfinder Director	Preston Carmen

#### Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; Friday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
 610 E. California • Glendale, CA 91206 • (818) 244-7241 • Fax: (818) 240-9485  
 E-Mail: [webmaster@glendalecitysda.com](mailto:webmaster@glendalecitysda.com) • Website: [www.glendalecitysda.com](http://www.glendalecitysda.com)

# Celebrating the Advent Season

*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.*



*But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.*

*Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,*

*"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to all."*

# Glendale City Seventh-day Adventist Church

## December 8, 2007

## Sermon Resources

Thirty-eight years. What does 38 years represent to you? It might be how long you've been married. It could be the age of your mother or your daughter. Maybe it's the length of a career that you loved. Or hated. Or both....

There's this man [John 5:1-9] who's been ill for 38 years. That's probably his whole life, too. We don't know exactly what's wrong with him but it sounds like he has trouble getting up and moving around. So he's likely paralyzed in some way. He's hanging out at the pool of Beth-zatha [Bethesda] in Jerusalem, a place where the water is rumored to have healing properties if you jump into it at exactly the right time. I wonder how many of those years this paralyzed guy has been trying to get into the water.

Then one Sabbath day a stranger kneels down beside him, a man he's never seen, doesn't know anything about. This stranger looks straight at him with a powerful, knowing gaze. "Do you want to be made well?" The paralyzed man says it's not likely: "I don't have anyone to help me get in the water, the one place I could float free of my pain." Then the stranger says the most preposterous thing. It's even offensive. He tells the disabled man, "Stand up!" Thirty-eight years. That's how long the man knew he couldn't stand up. How does he know now, instantaneously, that he can unfold his legs and trust them to support his weight, to balance him? Why now? Why here? Why believe this stranger's words?

I think the man stood up because there was life-giving power in those words from Jesus, power the man had never encountered before. This story witnesses to the good news that God can and does work this way in the world, bringing startlingly vivid new life where we don't expect it. That truth utterly disrupts our reality, our expectations....

It's really hard to take in. One reason it's hard is the timing. Healing now is great, but what a long time to wait for it. What was God up to for the previous 38 years?! Well, it strikes me that this man was ill before Jesus was even born. So one answer is that God spent that time incarnating God's word into the human being Jesus, the living word who was able to speak new life to this paralyzed man.

Another hard thing about this good news is the particularity. Sure, being healed is really great for the healed person. But what if you're not he? What if you were one of the many other hurting people hanging around the pool for years? The good news about your neighbor might actually feel irritating, painful. What about the disconcerting stories we occasionally hear, like someone with metastasized cancer who goes into remission against all odds? Or a

survivor of abuse who in a burst of grace seems truly to be given the power of forgiveness? Or a paralyzed man who stands up after 38 years? If we can identify the work of Jesus Christ in those miracles, what is the good news for other hurting people who are not the ones healed? Will God ever heal me?...

Not all of us are in these states all the time, but that's one way to look at the church. We are a community of invalids. That's us. We're the people gathered around the pool, going to the place where healing is rumored to happen. We gravitate here, around the word of God. And when we do we encounter stories like this one. Jesus took the initiative and sought out a long-hurting person. Jesus healed him with a word, and before he believed anything about Jesus. The man didn't earn his healing by having faith, or by living righteously, or even by asking for it. It was purely a gift from Jesus. None of us can earn healing either. But it's faithful for us to gather around the pool, waiting for healing. Our experience of waiting is itself an act of beauty and faith. Powerful things may happen to us in that waiting process. We can hear each other's healing stories and take hope from them. We can be changed in this community, maybe even made well. We can offer compassion to others.... On a day when we expect nothing, we may hear the words from Jesus Christ that heal our bodies, bind up our hearts, free our souls. That certainly happened for the paralyzed man who waited by the pool. His story reminds us that amazing surprises can happen in those long years of waiting." —C. Nolan Huizenga, *May 13, 2007*

## Scripture Reading

### Psalm 37:1-7, NKJV

Do not fret because of evildoers,  
Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.  
For they shall soon be cut down like the grass,  
And wither as the green herb.

**Trust in the LORD, and do good;  
Dwell in the land, and feed  
on His faithfulness.**

Delight yourself also in the LORD,  
And He shall give you  
the desires of your heart.

**Commit your way to the LORD,  
Trust also in Him,  
And He shall bring it to pass.**  
He shall bring forth your  
righteousness as the light,  
And your justice as the noonday.

**Rest in the LORD,  
and wait patiently for Him.**

## City Church Announcements

**The Wortham Family** would like to express our thanks and gratitude for all the love and support from our Church family during the death of our father and husband, Warren Humphry. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do. Please keep us in your prayers as we face more challenges with our mother's health. God bless you all.

**Greeters and deacons' luncheon** will be held after church next Sabbath at the Fanselaus' home, 1100 Furman Place, Glendale.

Full-color **Church Membership Directories** are available today! Please take only one copy per household.

**Poinsettias.** If you would like to reserve a poinsettia, please mark the number you wish to reserve on a pew card. They are \$6.00 each. You may pick them up on December 22 after the worship service.

**Glendale Academy Annual Christmas Concerts.** Do not miss these outstanding musical events! December 11, 7:00 p.m.—Grades 5 & 6 Bands/Choir; December 13, 7:00 p.m.—Junior High Bands/Choir.

**Handel's Messiah Sing-along.** White Memorial Church will be holding their Christmas Concert December 22, 2007, 4:00 p.m. Dr. Lloyd Mallory, Associate Pastor for Music & Worship, Sligo SDA Church will be conducting. Admission is free.

The City Church **FRIENDS OF MUSIC** sponsor many special touches in our music program. Brass for the Christmas Concert, Dr. Melvin West's "Hymn Festival" and other guest musicians are possible because of the Friends' special support. Please consider being a part of the Friends of Music with a specially marked gift this Christmas season.

**GAA Drama Department presents "A Christmas Carol,"** December 8 & 15, 7:00 p.m. at the Glendale Academy Amphitheatre. Tickets: \$10 Adults, \$7 Children, \$5 Students. Further information call 818/ 244-8671.

**A+ Adventist Children's Center's Christmas Program** will be Thursday, December 13, 6:30 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary. We hope you can come and see the children perform on the new platform (new to us—we've been in the Chapel in years past). Your support of this is greatly appreciated!

## Upcoming Sermons & Events

Elder of the Day Don Greathouse

December 15 Pastor Greg Nelson, *Second Wind*

**Sunset tonight – 4:43 p.m. Sunset next Friday – 4:43 p.m.**