
“First Watch” Touch Points for *Evangel’s Prayer Vigil* team

For the week of *December 15, 2013 – the second Sunday of Advent*

Share with others on the Prayer Vigil throughout the week, during our Connections time on Sundays, or using our FaceBook group “First Watch Prayer Vigil.” www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=63044309096 .

This series—aimed to support our “Stepping Out in Faith—for the Sake of the Gospel” initiative—is based on *The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible* by Cheri Fuller (Tyndale House, 2003). We will focus on specific topics that relate to faith, witness and outreach. “The driving force behind this proposal is to increase our evangelistic witness and the impact on our neighborhood and community.” (From the overview document, available at www.evbapt.org/docs/steppingOut.pdf)

God Revealed

No one has ever seen God. But his only Son, who is himself God, is near to the Father’s heart; he has told us of him. *John 1:18*

Prayer for the Week

Dear Lord, I praise you for revealing yourself in your Son Jesus. Wipe off the lens of my heart that I might see you accurately and love you more each day. Thank you for your Word, which reveals your love and your purpose for my life. Thank you for Jesus, who made it possible for me to have clear vision with which to see you, Father.

Notable Quote

Instead of complaining that God has hidden himself, you should give him thanks for having revealed so much of himself.

Blaise Pascal (1623-1662)

Reflection

When Jesus came on the stage of history, the majority of Jews did not perceive or receive him as the revelation of God the Father. The Gnostics refused to believe that deity would manifest itself in a human body because they believed that matter is evil. It is just as easy for us to have faulty ideas about God. If we base our view of God on the media’s opinions or on what liberal professors say about him, we will have an incorrect picture. If our opinions about God are the result of pain left over from childhood or from our experience with an unloving or absent earthly father, we may see him through a dark filter and not accept his love for us. But God revealed himself in his Son. And his Word is his love letter to us, calling us to come home to his heart. Jesus declared who God is and showed God’s heart to humankind so that we would be drawn to him and could know him. His life, miracles, teaching, death, and resurrection have given a glorious revelation of the Father. Through his Word, we can see the Father accurately in his splendor, love, grace, and light.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Reflect on Pascal’s quote—perhaps you can create a list, adding to it each day, praising God for what we know of him as revealed in his Son, Jesus Christ. Reflect also on the miracle of the incarnation as the way that God chose to make ours “the visited planet.”
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday’s worship service, the music, Scripture, and Pastor Dave’s message*, “What Child Is This?” (John 1:1,14) as he continues with the third of this year’s Advent series, focusing this week on Christ as the Light of the World. Pray for opportunities to apply the lessons of this series (and other elements of the service) this week.
- Continue to pray for our “Stepping Out in Faith” initiative: for the identification of a church planter, for unity and commitment as we seek to bring success to this evangelistic effort by growing ourselves. Pray for Mark Albrecht of Converge Mid-America as he seeks the Lord’s direction to find the best person for the Wheaton area—and for the recent contact Pastor Dave had with one potential planter in the area. In the meantime, take seriously Bill France’s challenge to pray that God will lead 25 adults and 50 children to Evangel—a seemingly impossible task! But not impossible for God! In fact, we have seen several new faces, including a recent growth in Coffeebreak that has not occurred in some time. Let’s ask the Lord to fill both sides of the sanctuary with people who are eager to worship and to be partners with God to reach those appointed to eternal life!

A podcast of the sermon, plus pdf documents of the sermon outline and PowerPoint notes are posted on the website, normally by Monday.

Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday and normally posted on the website (www.evbapt.org) by Saturday.
Printed copies are available in the lobby on Sunday.