

# **Sunday Morning Worship- December 21**

## **Announcements**

- **Candlelight Service**  
Tonight at **5:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall  
Singing, Scripture reading, fellowship, and hot chocolate.
- **Wednesday Night Services**  
No Wednesday night services this week.
- **Next Sunday**  
Special **Communion Service** during morning worship.
- **Giving**
  - Online giving available at **fbctombean.com**
  - Offering boxes located at both entrances
  - Cash gifts may be placed in envelopes provided
- **Tom Bean Ministerial Alliance Offering**  
November total: **\$650**  
Funds assist community members with utility needs through shared accountability among five churches.
- **Monthly Budget Update**  
Monthly budget: **\$13,500**  
Current giving: **approximately \$6,000** — close to meeting budget.

## **Pastoral Prayer**

Gracious Heavenly Father,  
We lift this day and this week to You as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.  
Thank You for sending Him to be born of a virgin, to live, to be crucified, and to rise again so that we might be saved.  
We thank You for Your love and ask that You would bless this service.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.

## **Congregational Singing**

**“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”**

**“You, My God, Have Saved My Soul”**

(Confession and assurance emphasizing Christ as mediator and Savior.)

## **Scripture Readings**

### **Matthew 6:9–13**

#### **The Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven...

### **John 3:16–21**

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life...

## **Congregational Singing**

**“In Christ Alone”**

## **Greeting Time**

Congregation welcomed and greeted one another.

## **Sermon**

### **Job 23–24**

**Theme: Longing for Vindication and Justice Under God’s Sovereignty**

**Text:** Job 23–24

## Sermon Summary

Job expresses two deep longings:

1. **Vindication of the righteous** (Job 23)
2. **Judgment of the wicked** (Job 24)

In chapter 23, Job longs to come before God's throne and present his case. He believes that God, though sovereign and unchangeable, would hear him and vindicate him. Job expresses confidence that God knows his ways and that after being tested, he will come out as gold.

Yet Job also trembles before God's presence — acknowledging God's terrifying sovereignty and absolute authority.

In chapter 24, Job turns his attention to the wicked. He catalogs injustice:

- The poor are exploited
- Widows and orphans are oppressed
- Crimes are committed under cover of darkness

Job asks why the righteous do not see God's judgment in their lifetime.

The tension is clear:

Job longs for justice — but his understanding is still shaped by human standards of merit and fairness.

## Key Teaching Point

Job's reasoning contains a flaw:

He expects vindication based on his righteousness and punishment based on others' wickedness.

Scripture later reveals that **no one is truly righteous apart from Christ.**

True vindication comes not from our works, but from Christ's righteousness imputed to us. Likewise, judgment comes not on human terms, but on God's perfect and sovereign will.

God is:

- **Not safe** — He cannot be controlled or tamed
- **Utterly good** — Always righteous, just, and faithful

As C.S. Lewis wrote:

“He is not safe, but He is good.”

## **Closing Exhortation**

We pray, “*Your kingdom come, Your will be done,*” not to change God — but to submit ourselves to Him.

God will complete what He appoints.  
We can trust Him even when we do not understand.

## **Closing Prayer**

Lord, You are the same yesterday, today, and forever.  
Thank You for revealing Yourself through Your Word and by Your Spirit.  
May You receive all glory, honor, and praise.  
Amen.

## **Invitation & Response**

Time given for reflection, prayer, and counsel.

## **Special Presentation**

The congregation presented a Christmas gift to the Bottoms family in appreciation and love.

## **Closing Hymn**

**“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

## **Benediction**

May the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God our Father,  
who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace,  
comfort and establish your hearts in every good work and word.

Merry Christmas. You are dismissed.