

**Dennis R. Wiles  
First Baptist Arlington  
December 1, 2024**

**ADVENT 2024  
Together . . . *in the Light*  
December 1 - 31, 2024  
Preaching Voice:           Evangelist**

***The Absence of Light*  
Isaiah 1:1-9**

**Theme for 2024:   *Together***

**Theme for Fall 2024:   *Together . . . in the Light***

**Sermon Title:           *The Absence of Light*  
Text:                    Isaiah 1:1-9**

**Darkness has its place in our lives. There is a natural cycle of light and dark woven into the fabric of God's creation.**

**Darkness captivates, baffles, and appalls us. It's a shifty thing of many textures, many moods, a state of fascination and of horror, an absence and a presence, solace and threat, a beginning and an end.**

**-Jacqueline Yallop**

**CONTEXT: Isaiah opens his book of prophecy with a poetic and symbolic representation of the brokenness of the nation of**

**Judah. Because of the rebellion and spiritual apathy of God's people, the times were dark.**

**In the Scripture, darkness represents the very absence of God. It represents the power of sin, evil, brokenness, rebellion, and unbelief in this world.**

**This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.**

**-John 3:19**

**Darkness can be both a corporate reality and/or and individual experience.**

**Darkness is my closest friend.**

**-Psalm 88:18**

**The answer to the power and presence of darkness in this world is the power and presence of God! God is light!**

**God's light can overcome the personal darkness in your own life!**