

December 19, 2021

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

John 1:1-18

Praise the Light

Have you ever stopped to think about the last time you were afraid of the dark? I mean absolutely scarred and terrified of the dark. I can't seem to recall those experiences very much as an adult. Or for that matter even as a child. I am sure that children would experience it more than an adult would. So I searched my mind for possible situations where one would be terrified and afraid of being in the dark. The most powerful situation that came to mind was being in a mining disaster. The second was being lost in the woods at night.

Being in a mining disaster is where we will stay for now. I can only imagine being trapped in a collapsed mining shaft. The fear of injury and death become very real. The darkness only contributes to the whole bad situation. The thoughts of not reaching the surface and being with your loved ones becomes a strong possibility. However the person with a flash light or a working head lamp becomes the hope of possibility to those trapped. This person becomes a hero because they can dispel the darkness and shed light. The great thing about light is that it helps us with our bearings and to get a better understanding of our situation. Light can bring comfort in a bad situation. The person who has a light source can lead people to the surface and out of the darkness and danger. That person is a small s saviour.

For us Christians, Jesus is that person with the light source that leads us out of the darkness. Think of it this way, that after death our souls were trapped in a spiritually dark mine shaft. There was no hope of escape or relief. Most of us didn't know our souls were going there when our bodies died. It was a bad place spiritually. Then along comes Jesus, sent by God His Father to rescue us from that dark spiritual mine shaft. Jesus's resurrection from the dead freed and released our souls from the darkness and brought us into the light of eternal life. Not only did Jesus bring the light, He was the light and the enlightener. Remember that we were completely ignorant of our dismal spiritual state after death. With the coming of Jesus, The Light of the World, we no longer rest in the spiritual darkness called death.

This is why we praise Jesus, The Light of Our World. He brought us from the darkness of death to the light of eternal life. In the past were told to praise God for all that He has done. To be thankful for all that we have because of Him. Everything was made to praise God. I mean everything. Let everything that has breath praise God. Ps 148:1-5, “

Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord from the heavens, Praise the Him in the heights, Praise Him, all His angels, Praise Him all His hosts. Praise Him sun and moon. Praise Him all you stars of light. Praise Him you heavens of heavens, and you waters that are above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for He commanded and they were created.”

So we know that we are to praise God for all of creation. With Jesus and His coming there is so much more to give praise to God for. This was God personally taking and interest in us and participating in His creation. Jesus makes it all very personal. With His coming we now

have a deeper understanding of why we should praise Jesus, The Light of the World. God our Father sent Him into our world to free us from the darkness of sin. Our Lord's resurrection makes us Children of God and heirs to eternal Life. That is very personal. WE are spiritually free from death and the grave. We are no longer trapped in that spiritual darkness, because Jesus destroyed it. He destroyed it with the light of His resurrection.

We have a deeper understanding of why we should praise God. One that is personal. Not just praise God because I said so. Our understanding has greater meaning. Knowing all of this we still praise God for sending His Son, but it has a deeper meaning. We praise Jesus for His life amongst us and for bringing the light and knowledge that we are no longer bound by death. We praise and celebrate Jesus's birth into our world and what it would later mean to all of us. These are the reasons we praise Jesus the light of our World.

Father in Heaven, we look to You from a distance: from a world filled with darkness. Help us to seek the light of Your truth, as we remember Your promises and offer our praises for Your amazing gifts to us. Amen.

God Bless you all and take care of yourself and one another, Pastor D