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John 1:1-18
1/2/22

Enfleshing Light

Good morning brothers and sisters in Christ. This Advent and Christmastide has taken us through the question, who is Jesus and how shall we follow him? The subversive song of Mary's mother and how Christ's hope strengthens our hands to do work. But today, the gospel of John tries to answer the question, why does it even matter that Jesus came down on Earth as Son of God and Human. And therefore, how do we follow in Christ's footsteps to put our own words into action.

Please Pray with me. May the words of my mouth and the meditations of all of our hearts be pleasing to you. Our rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

In the beginning....

In the beginning, was the Word, And by the Word light and life came into this world.

In the beginning. God made creation and said it was very very good.

Then came Adam and Eve, Cain killed Able, the floodwaters rose to cleanse this world of violence. But still, people weren't perfect. Abraham pimped his wife, Moses killed an Egyptian, and David sent Uriah to die for the sake of lust. The rich trampled the heads of the poor. Priests lead the people astray. And the kings spent the Israelite's sons to enlarge their pride.

But God did not abandon humanity. The Word of God dwells among us and within us. Because God loved the world so much that God could not only express it with signs and teachings. God Loved humanity so much that God needed to be closer than the rain falling on our heads and breath in our lungs.

The love of God is not satisfied unless God's love is wasteful. Like a father welcoming home the prodigal son. Looking not at the shame in the past, but humanity receiving him in the present. Humanity is not perfect, But perfection was never the goal. The goal is God's love that shines like a light on all of humanity. Humanity cannot earn this light, because the light of the Son shines upon the seeker and agnostic alike. Light shines over the face of the earth and we humans need only open our eyes to see it. Yet, many of us have faced darkness at some point in our lives. The darkness of ill health. Addiction, tragedy, oppression for a part of ourselves that we cannot change. You name it, I am certain that everyone in this room and online has gone through darkness at some point in their lives.

But even the deepest darkness is no darkness to God. Darkness is a part of our earthly existence. Just as the day fails into night, our lives are full of twists and turns. Jesus knew this well. Jesus will be rejected by his home town, almost thrown off a cliff for declaring that he will set the captives free. Jesus joins us in the darkness. Feeling our pain and experiencing our suffering. Because Christ came down from heaven to take on the DNA of Mary, and became flesh and blood as a child born in a spare room. A child who cried, a teenager who studied the scriptures, and an adult who preached the gospel of opened eyes. So that the Light of the world remains bright for all to see.

And so the love of God shines down upon those gathered this Christmastide. But what remains to be seen is how Christ's light will shine through us. The book of light is a half-written tale. So how do the children of God shine the light of Christ? Simple. We do the same as Christ, we make our light take on flesh and walk in the world. So brothers and sisters, let me ask you. Should we let our light be only in our lips, like God only giving the light of scripture and the prophets and leaving it at that. No, if Christ talked the talk and walked the walk, then how much more should we let Christ's light into everything we do.

And so I leave you with this blessing. May the light of Christ illuminate your life, showing you the hope of God's immeasurable love. And may the darkness be a kind teacher and may Jesus walk with you through your darkest nights. Amen.