

Midnight Mass Dec 2019
Isaiah 52:7-10 Hebrews 1:1-4 John 1:1-14

It is pretty dark outside this evening.

Yes - there are various forms of Christmas lights... varying colours and varying sequences of flashing of not

Hopefully you drove with your car lights on this evening! :-)

And our street lights are on

But because it is dark, they show up even more.

There is only the tiniest slither of a moon if you can see it at all -the new moon starts to rise on Thursday

I don't know if you have been anywhere that is truly pitch black? Somewhere where there is no light pollution or all forms of light have been blocked out.

You see - darkness can not block out light because darkness is actually the absence of something rather than the presence of something.

To be in somewhere totally dark is to be somewhere where there is no form of light because no matter how small the light it can be seen in darkness

Maybe we especially appreciate all the Christmas lights in their great variety because this is a time of year when, in our country at least, we experience short hours of daylight and long hours of nighttime.

In our gospel reading tonight, John says in vs 5

'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it'

John is not talking here about the physical darkness of night time

He is not referring to the christmas lights that prolific around our streets and homes at the moment.

John is talking about The Word

The Life

The Word that became flesh

The Light of all People

John is writing about the incredible mystery of the incarnation of God, the one who was God, the One who has existed since the beginning of all things, the one who chose to limit himself and come to earth as a tiny, vulnerable, dependent baby, born in a stable to a young girl, the one whose birth day we celebrate tomorrow.

The one who came to bring pure light... 'true light which enlightens everyone' (vs9)

The one who came to earth as a human baby, whose birthday we celebrate each year was not simply a human baby, not simply a saviour.

He was, in the beginning, NOTHING exists without Him

I don't know about you but our world can feel a dark place. On some days it can feel a dark dark place. It can feel as if integrity and truth and respect and trust and honesty and reliability the list could go on

It feels as if these qualities and values are missing so much the absence of them making our world seem a dark place

But we are celebrating the birth of the one, the Word, the Light of all People who came, who came to earth, who came to bring light.
No longer an absence but a very real presence of light.

God is present with us. On Sunday we were thinking about Emmanuel - God with us
There is no place or situation that is beyond God's presence - Emmanuel - God present with us

TURN OFF ALL THE LIGHTS except the Christmas Tree

I invite you to look at the lights on the tree for a moment
Enjoy their beauty, their colour
Notice how just those very small bulbs give light to this space

As you enjoy the beauty remember also how Jesus came, came to bring light in to our lives
and in to our world.

Our world can be a dark place But Jesus came to bring light to us

Is there anything in your life today that needs Jesus' light to shine?

What would you like Jesus the light of the world to do in your life today?

Where do you long to see the light of Jesus shine today?

Jesus, the Word, the Life, the Light of the People is, as the writer to the Hebrews says, the heir, the creator, the true reflection of God, the sustainer
It is the wonderful mystery of Christmas that He, God himself, came to the earth in order to bring light and life.

The light does shine in the darkness and the darkness can never overcome it

So this Christmas time and on in to the coming year, remember that Jesus came as the one true light for you, for me, for our world and may that bring you hope and peace and comfort this night and always

Amen