

## The First Sunday after Christmas ~ Sunday, December 28, 2025

### “The Light We Still Need”

#### Colossians 1:15-20 & John 1:1-18

Luke gave us the earthy, \_\_\_\_\_ story: a census, a journey, an overcrowded town, shepherds startled in the night. It’s a story with dust and straw and the sound of livestock in the background. However, this morning, John takes us behind the scenes. He lifts us from the stable and places us in the heavens. He pulls back the veil and shows us the \_\_\_\_\_ reality of who this Child truly is.

Luke shows us \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus came. John shows us \_\_\_\_\_ He is. Luke gives us the \_\_\_\_\_. John gives us the \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3 IMPORTANT POINTS

#### Point #1: The Light is \_\_\_\_\_.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.” (John 1:1-2)

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)

John intentionally reaches back to creation to make an earth-shaking point: Before creation, before time, before Bethlehem, the Word already \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus doesn’t begin in a manger. He doesn’t begin with Mary. He doesn’t begin with angelic announcements or shepherds hurrying through the night. He’s \_\_\_\_\_. He’s divine. He’s uncreated. He’s \_\_\_\_\_ Himself.

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” (Colossians 1:15-17)

“with God” =

“was God” =

“He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.” (Hebrew 1:3)

Christmas isn’t the beginning of Jesus, it’s the \_\_\_\_\_ of the eternal Word in \_\_\_\_\_ form.

“All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.” (John 1:3)

Jesus isn’t part of creation. He’s the \_\_\_\_\_ of creation. The Creator became a creature, not to blend in, but to \_\_\_\_\_.

“In Him was life, and that life was the light of all people.” (John 1:4)

Life isn’t just something Jesus gives, it’s something \_\_\_\_\_. Without Christ, the world doesn’t just lack direction, it lacks \_\_\_\_\_ itself.

“...and the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (5)

No matter how dark it gets, the Light of Christ is always \_\_\_\_\_.! Darkness cannot \_\_\_\_\_ Him. Darkness can’t extinguish Him. Darkness can’t stop Him. The Light that shone in Bethlehem is the \_\_\_\_\_ Light of God: unconquerable, unstoppable, \_\_\_\_\_.

This means something profoundly hopeful: Whatever darkness you carried into this place today, doesn’t get the \_\_\_\_\_ word in your life. Christ does! And, that word is \_\_\_\_\_!

**Do you need to receive the eternal light anew this Christmas season?**

#### Point #2: The Light \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.” (John 1:6-8)

John now shifts from the eternal pre-existence of Christ to the experience of Christ’s coming into the world, and how people \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.

Light always creates a \_\_\_\_\_. It always draws a line. It always forces a choice. No one is allowed to remain \_\_\_\_\_, because the Light always confronts.

In a culture obsessed with self-promotion, \_\_\_\_\_, and self-inflation, John offers us a refreshing, \_\_\_\_\_ example. He understood his role: to direct all eyes to \_\_\_\_\_.

This is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church today. Not to shine with our own light, but to \_\_\_\_\_ Christ’s light.

“The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know

him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.” (John 1:9-11)

Jesus, the Light of the World come down from Heaven, is met with: indifference, resistance, \_\_\_\_\_, and even, \_\_\_\_\_.

People still struggle with the Light of Christ because light reveals what we’d prefer to \_\_\_\_\_. Light exposes the truth. Light demands a response. Light forces us to choose \_\_\_\_\_ instead of pride. Light requires us to \_\_\_\_\_ and to walk a certain path.

Christmas, for many, is safe as long as it stays \_\_\_\_\_. However, the moment Jesus is seen as the eternal Word, the rightful King, the true Light—the moment He’s more than a cute baby—the world \_\_\_\_\_.

“But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:12-13)

John shows us the reality of the freedom and mystery of human response; he shows us both human \_\_\_\_\_ and divine \_\_\_\_\_.

**Human responsibility = “They did not receive Him.”**

People make real \_\_\_\_\_. Real responses. Real refusals. The Light shines, but not all \_\_\_\_\_ it.

**Divine grace = “But to all who did receive Him...”**

God offers an open door, a joyous \_\_\_\_\_, a gracious welcome. Receiving Christ simply means \_\_\_\_\_ Him: believing, welcoming, surrendering.

Those who welcome the Light and receive Christ are not merely forgiven or improved, they’re \_\_\_\_\_.

This is new birth: a new \_\_\_\_\_, a new life, a new \_\_\_\_\_, a new hope.

Have we merely \_\_\_\_\_ the Light, or have we received Him? Have we simply enjoyed the story, or have we opened our \_\_\_\_\_ to the Saviour? Have we celebrated Christmas, or have we \_\_\_\_\_ Christ?

**Have we received Christ? Have we stepped into the Light?**

**Point 3: The Light has come near and \_\_\_\_\_ God.**

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

If the opening verses of John 1 lift us into the eternal \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, verse 14 brings that glory right down into the dust of our \_\_\_\_\_.

God steps into our \_\_\_\_\_. This is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christmas. Not that God sent a messenger, not that He offered advice from a distance, not that He sent a prophet or angelic representative, but that God, the Creator Himself entered into His creation, the Light of the World stepped down into our darkness, wrapped Himself in our \_\_\_\_\_, and became one of us.

***skenoo* = dwelt =**

If Christmas Eve showed us the humble \_\_\_\_\_ of His birth, John shows us the cosmic \_\_\_\_\_: God has come to dwell with His people. Permanently. \_\_\_\_\_. Physically.

This isn’t the kind of \_\_\_\_\_ we expect. We tend to think of glory as brilliance, \_\_\_\_\_, spectacle. However, Jesus reveals the glory of God in humility, compassion, mercy, \_\_\_\_\_, and love.

The glory of God shines brightest in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

These two qualities—grace and truth aren’t two \_\_\_\_\_ qualities—they’re the perfect \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s heart. And Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ them both completely.

“No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.” (John 1:18)

However, Jesus—the One who is Himself God, and who is in \_\_\_\_\_ relationship with the Father, has made Him known.

John 1 gives us the perfect message for entering a new year: We don’t walk into the future \_\_\_\_\_, the Word made flesh walks beside us. We don’t face the unknown in darkness, the Light shines in the \_\_\_\_\_. We don’t approach God timidly or fearfully, the Son has made Him known. We don’t need to guess what God is like, we see His character and His heart \_\_\_\_\_ revealed in Jesus. And because the Light has come, we can face whatever lies ahead: with faith, \_\_\_\_\_, courage, and a \_\_\_\_\_ shaped by grace and truth.

**Do you know God, as He’s revealed in Jesus?**



On this 1<sup>st</sup> quiet Sunday after the holy night, we remember: The Light is eternal, so we can \_\_\_\_\_ Him completely. The Light confronts and saves, so we can \_\_\_\_\_ Him wholeheartedly. The Light has come near, so we can \_\_\_\_\_ God intimately, personally, joyfully.