

**Series: Come, Let Us Adore Him**  
**Sermon: He Comes In Love**  
**Scripture: John 1:1-5, 14 and 3:16-17**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**December 22, 2024**  
**Rev. Karen H Roberts**

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it...And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.*

*God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.*

My 3-year-old grandson is obsessed with flashlights right now. When he comes to my house it is the first thing he starts looking for. He carries it everywhere, shining the light on every object in the house, examining it like he is seeing it for the first time. When it's time to go to bed, he insists on keeping the flashlight turned on, laying on the bed beside him, the beam directed into the furthest dark corner of the room. He falls asleep with his focus on that light.

The light sparks his curiosity. When you shine a light on something, you can see it in fresh ways. I used to think it was ridiculous to watch shows like CSI or NCIS...those crime investigation shows...and they would go to investigate but never turn the lights on, choosing instead to use flashlights to look for clues. But then one day I dropped a piece of jewelry on the floor. I couldn't see where it had bounced. I couldn't find it anywhere. I searched for a few days before thinking of those crime dramas, so, I got a flashlight and searched again. I found it almost immediately. When light is focused, concentrated, it helps us to see more clearly and in ways that reveal details we might miss otherwise.

The light also brings him comfort. It pushes back the darkness that holds uncertainty and generates fear. It enables him the confidence to leave his comfort zone and go out to explore new places. It leads the way to new opportunities to grow in understanding, without the fear of what he can't see looming.

For my grandson, the light reveals, comforts and empowers. If a simple flashlight can do that for a 3-year-old, how much more can the light of Christ do for us?

God's first act of creation was light. Without light we cannot see. Things cannot grow. Thriving and fruitfulness cannot happen. This is just a scientific fact. The sun and the moon are gifts of light to warm and to illuminate. Stars are pinpricks of light that guide us, and help us to navigate our way.

Physically and Spiritually, we need light. The world around us can feel like a dark, scary, uncomfortable place, but into that darkness...and so God said, let there be light...physically and spiritually.

Our Christmas story isn't complete without this spiritual truth: God sent a son named Jesus who was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John's gospel calls this love...God's love is about sending light to reveal, to comfort, and to empower with guidance.

For God so loved the world, God sent light...that which God has spoken into being was wrapped and flesh and sent to live among us, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth...all done because of God's immense love...a light, a love, we can hold onto and also share.

My grandson will sometimes see me leave the room and he will grab his flashlight and say, "I'll bring my light for you GiGi." This is how a 3-year-old shows love...what comforts him...what helps him...he wants to share with those he loves.

Shouldn't this be the way of those who find comfort and help in the Lord? Shouldn't the love that comes to us as light in the darkness, not only be held and cherished, but shared and reflected out into the world so that others may experience it?

For God so loves us...and the world...that a light of hope, peace, and joy is sparked, and in the coming of Jesus catches and spreads... illuminates and reveals, warms and comforts, empowers and guides. So, this Christmas, as in the first...fear not. The light still shines, and the darkness will not overcome it.

Holy God,  
The light of your love enfolds us, and we are so grateful.  
We are grateful for the hope we find in Isaiah,  
For the peace we find in your promises,  
May the truth of your light not only find a home in our hearts,  
But may it guide our actions that we are a people who reflect your hope, peace, joy,  
and love into the world around us, so that others may see and hear, experience and  
understand all you do in order to live among us and save us.  
In the name of the child of light who came to show us the way, Amen.