



## *Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast*

### *December 6, 2020 -- 2 Advent*

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#### In the Beginning There was Light

*“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good;...” [NKJV, Gen 1-4]*

From the very beginning of creation light signals God’s presence. In the well-known creation story, we see there was light overcoming darkness before there was anything, day or night or water or earth. Light signals God breaking into darkness. As we go through this Christmas season we are reminded of God’s light in our world.

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#### Preparing for A Great Light to Shine

*“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.” [NRSV, Isaiah 9:2]*

*“There were sheep herders camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God’s angel stood among them and God’s glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, ‘Don’t be afraid. I’m here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David’s town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you’re to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger.’” [The Message, 2:8-12]*



The two Gospel stories of the first Christmas are filled with light. In Matthew, the star of Bethlehem shines brightly to guide the wise men to the place of Jesus’s birth. In Luke, the night is filled with light as angels bring the news of Jesus’s birth to the “sheep herders” keeping watch over their flocks. As John 1:9 puts it: “The true light that gives light to everyone

was coming into the world.” [NIV] In the middle of the night, on the longest night of the year, the time of deepest darkness, Jesus is born.

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### Our Choices for This Christmas

Christmas is about the light overcoming the darkness, God prevailing. It is not only about a birth 2000 years ago, but it is about what is and what can happen today.

This Christmas season let us imagine that we are standing at a window and the curtains are drawn, so the light barely comes in, if at all. What are those curtains to us – what things are between us and the light of Christ this season? Is it fear, worry, anger, doubt? Probably each one of us can name at least one thing that keeps us from letting God’s light in and living a full life. What would it take for us to draw the curtains away, raise that shade to live in the light of Christ?

The Christmas season is about choices, good and bad, then and now. It is about Mary’s reaction when the angel tells her she is pregnant: “my soul magnifies the Lord.” It is also the innkeeper shutting the door and saying that there is no room in the inn. It is about our choices too. We have a choice this Christmas to remain in darkness, not pulling back the curtains. Or we can open them wide and let the light of Christ shine through.

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### Nativity Stories: Matt 1:1-2:19, Luke 1:5-2:40

#### Revised Common Lectionary Scripture for Second Sunday in Advent:

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

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**Special prayers this week:** for an impending birth of a grandson; our friends recovering from injury and surgery; those family members and friends who are undergoing treatments for cancer. Hear our prayers O Lord!

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The second candle in Advent symbolizes faith and is called the "Bethlehem Candle." It reminds us of the small city where Christ was born.

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