

WALKING IN THE LIGHT OF JESUS

Luke 2:1-20

December 25, 2019

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”. This prelude to John’s gospel is one of my favorite passages. Later John says, “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us. The writer continues by relating the words of John the Baptist, who bore witness to Jesus, the Word of God, and the true Light of humanity. (I wonder if Bishop Sandra, as she led pilgrims from West Virginia through the countryside of ancient Palestine, may have walked near the place where John made these proclamations, or where Jesus later walked.)

We frequently hear a pastor or liturgist conclude a scripture reading with the phrase: “The word of God for the people of God.” It is a common practice to refer to the Bible as the “Word of God”, but John makes the case that it is more appropriate to use that phrase in reference to Jesus. It is probable that I will continue to think of the Bible when I hear those three words, but particularly during Advent, with its emphasis on the incarnation – God assuming human form and becoming a part of creation -- I hope I will remember John’s usage.

Amy Grant compares “Thy Word” to a “lamp unto my feet” and “a light unto my path”, just as John calls Jesus the “true light” that lights every person. “A man’s word is his bond” and “a man is only as good as his word.” “I give you my word.” Anyone’s word is important.

The first Genesis account of creation describes all creation appearing when God speaks – from the Word of God, as it were. God’s voice, God’s message, God’s manifestation on Earth, God’s creation – the Word of God means everything. That is why God sent God’s final Word in the person of Jesus Christ, to redeem the world and to be its perfect light.

Prayer: Almighty God, help us remember that in this season we celebrate the gift of Your final Word, and as John Wesley said, “The best thing of all is God is with us.” Amen.

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