

## *Advent 3B 2014*

### *To Testify to the Light*

This Advent season is a time of light and darkness. On the one hand, December is the darkest time of year, a time when the days grow shorter and shorter. On the other, everywhere you look there are lights. There are the lights Christmas trees; there are the lights of Christmas decorations. The explosion of these lights, in this season of darkness, points to the coming of the true light of the world, Jesus Christ. This is why today's gospel begins, "A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, *to testify to the light*, so that all might believe in him. He was not the light, but *he came to testify to the light.*"

The true light of the world is Jesus Christ. He is the everlasting light that scatters that darkness of sin; he is the eternal light that reveals the truth that is God; he is the light in which we find the fullness of life. To walk in the light of Christ is to know the truth that is God. To walk in the light of Christ is to live in God's light; for God is light, and in God there is no darkness.

There are many people today, however, who prefer to live in a light of their making: the light of their success and achievement, the light of their affluence and abundance. Rather than live in the light of Christ that points to God, they live in the light that point to themselves.

Those who live in a light of their own making do not see any need for God. There have little or no attachment to Christ and the community of his church. Having forsaken the light of Christ, they entrust themselves to their own light, a light that shines upon them but does not reveal the truth that is God who is life. Even worse is the situation of those who have chosen to live in the darkness. Having forsaken all light, human as well as divine, they condemn themselves to live in the eternal darkness where Sin and Death shepherd and rule over their lives.

This is why the season of Advent is so important. Advent reminds us that the true light, the only light that reveals God, the light without which there is no life, is Jesus Christ. Advent calls us to live in the light rather than in the darkness. Advent assures us that Christ comes into our lives to reveal the truth that is God, the truth without which we cannot live. Advent summons us out of darkness into the glorious light of Christ who is the perfect reflection of the light that is God.

The next time you see the lights of a Christmas tree, pray to Christ the light of the world. The next time you see the light of a single candle flickering in the darkness, proclaim your faith in Jesus Christ the light of the world. For, Christ came into the world as the light of the world that the world might live in the light that is God's own life.