

## *Lent 4B 2015*

### *Out of the Darkness*

Winter has had its grip on us longer than it should. But the days are getting brighter, and the light is overcoming the darkness. There is something about the light that gives us hope. Light is a sign of life. And in the light, we see more clearly. In the light, we feel more secure.

Jesus says he came into the world as the light of the world. As the light of the world he reveals the light that is God—the light that brings us truth and life. But sometimes we prefer the darkness to the light because the light exposes our sin. Standing in the light of God we see who we truly are. We see what is good and what is evil—and we are afraid.

It is not surprising, then, that we do not want to get too close to Jesus, the light of God. It is not surprising we are fearful of standing in the light of Christ. For when we stand in God's light, our sin is revealed. When we stand in the light of Christ, we understand our profound need for God's grace and mercy.

*I want to dwell in the light, but please Lord, don't expose my sin! I want to dwell in the light, but please Lord I don't want to see my need for forgiveness. So let me stand in the shadows just a little longer where I cannot see my sin. Let me dwell in twilight between day and night that does not expose my need for your grace.*

But if we wish to dwell in God's presence we cannot remain in the shadows, in that twilight between day and night. For if we wish to dwell in God's presence we must allow the light of Christ to reveal our sin and failure so that we can live in the glorious light that is God. This is why Lent is so important. This is why we observe Lent every year so that we can move from the darkness that is sin to the light that is God.

*But I am not ready Lord. Let me dwell in the shadows just a little longer. I am not ready Lord. Let me dwell in the comfort of the twilight, where I do not need to acknowledge my sin. I am not ready Lord to dwell in that light that exposes my sin and need for your forgiveness.*

There are times we prefer to dwell in the darkness rather than in the light. Perhaps we are fearful of standing in the light of Christ who reveals who we are. But this is the fourth week of Lent, and Lent is rapidly coming to a close. Shall we continue to dwell in the shadows of twilight when Christ calls us to dwell in his glorious light?

Lent is an invitation to move from the shadows of darkness to the glorious light of God. But if we do not take advantage of this time to repent and confess our sin, this time will soon pass.

*But it is so much easier to remain in the shadows, Lord. It is so much easier to dwell in the darkness than the light where I do not have to deal with my sin.*