



Friedens Church of Washington, UCC

*“A Country Church with a New Spirit”
Open Doors and Open Hearts*

Grace to you and peace in the name of Jesus Christ,

Here we are in another time of Advent, that wondrous time of excitement and expectation, as our thoughts turn to a manger in Bethlehem, awaiting the arrival of a baby, born to peasants in a simple feeding trough, yet also the King of kings and Lord of Lords, our messiah, our savior, Jesus the Christ. Even when all seems dark, still a light shines forth, a light that can only come from God, a light that breaks the bonds and frees the soul, making us right with God and giving us second birth. Praise be to God!

Hear a sampling of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. (Isaiah 42:5-7)

I will lead the blind by a road they do not know, by paths they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These things I will do, and I will not forsake them. (Isa 42:16)

But thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, and the flame will not consume you. (Isaiah 43:1-2)

Though there are times when we feel like we are in darkness, times even when we feel abandoned by God, times of despair and disillusionment, a light still shines forth, a light of hope, a light that tells us that God is still at work in our lives. It is the light of Jesus Christ. And God is there to hold our hand and lead us through, even when we can't see it.

I pray, my friends, that you too can get wrapped up in the glorious expectation and joyous anticipation of the Advent season.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Ron

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