

Darkness and Light Lent II

The Bible begins with the creation of the world and the story of darkness and light. Genesis tells us that, “darkness covered the face of the deep.....then God said, “Let there be light. And there was light, and God saw that the light was good.”

Darkness and light....two major themes in life.

Think about places in this world.....some of them, we all want to go to, to see, and to experience....the 7 wonders of the world, UNESCO world heritage sights, beauty marks that punctuate the earth. They are light. They are beauty. They bring joy and awe and wonderment.

But there are dark places too.....places that seem desperate, and hostile just in their physical, geographical appearance alone. There are other places we are advised to stay away from.....they are dangerous for a variety of reasons. They ignite fear....Places of light. Places of darkness.

Consider our history.....take your pick, the church's history, world history, or Canadian history. There are times of darkness there.....very dark times. Times we would rather forget. Times we remember with shame and regret. And thankfully, there are times of light....hopefully more times of light than darkness.

Think about something as simple as daylight savings time.....everyone loves that it stays light, later in the day.....the darkness arrives later.

We prefer the light.

Think about your life. You have experienced dark days, or at least dark moments. You may have regrets. Perhaps there are decisions you have made that you wish you had not made. Struggle is not pleasant. You have also experienced days of great joy and celebration. Days of light. You have enjoyed that! Those have been life-giving.

God said, "Let there be light. And there was light. And God saw that the light was good.

As we move through the days of Lent, we can see the shadows now as the sun begins to get blotted out. It is dark to some when he gets on that donkey and rides into Jerusalem amid the waving of pine branches and the shouts of Hosanna. It gets darker when he goes into the garden to pray, asking God to take the cup from him, change the course of history so that he would not have to go to the cross. We know that the darkness is coming. And then the darkness, the stark, terrifying darkness comes in its totality. He is arrested, and beaten, and humiliated. Under the weight of that huge cross, under the agony of defeat, he makes it to Calvary. It was about noon, but darkness covered the land. In the depths of despair, drowning in abandonment he cries out, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

And eventually, out of that darkness, out of that tomb, came the most staggering light the world has ever known. And the darkness has been defeated, for once and for all.

Amen