

Trinity St. James / Church of the Holy Parish

January 2, 2022 – Zoom

John 1: 1-18

Have you watched a sunrise? First there is the dark, sometimes it is that inky deep dark and sometimes, there are full moon nights, with a little bit of light in it. But it is the colours in that sunrise that are so amazing. It starts with a sliver of red light, then pinks and purples. The morning I started this homily under all that colour was the most brilliant blue before the colours faded out and sun itself peeked over the horizon. Getting up early in the morning, this sight makes it so worth while. As I was studying the gospel for today, I read “Christmas is light.” When I watched the sunrise that morning that statement had a new meaning of what light Christmas is.

The start of Christmas usually begins with the anticipation of the birth of Christ. The excitement is like that sliver of colour on the horizon. We look forward to exchanging the gifts, seeing family, the inspirational service, usually with those familiar hymns. That is the brilliant colours of the sunrise, where we stop stare, take pictures to share on social media, but then what? The colours fade away as the brilliant light of the sun comes over the horizon, but by then we have moved on. Get the day started and we seldom even see that sun peak over when the

true light of day happens. By now I am sure we have the Christmas decorations packed away. Leftovers handed out, put in the freezer or whatever you chose to do with them. We have celebrated the new year and getting ready for the humdrum of routine of life. Christmas is over, isn't it?

The Gospel of John is different from the other three gospels, they start with the story of Christ, the birth, the shepherds, and wise men, all the colours of Christmas. The Gospel of John starts by introducing us to John the Baptist, and I find that interesting. Why did John the disciple do that? Possibly because he knows that once the brilliant colours have faded, we need to be reminded to stay testify to the most brilliant light of Christmas, the light of Christ. This is the steady light of Christmas that shines the brightest and while we as Christians know to follow it, we often get lost in the day-to-day activities of Christian life and forget to marvel in it.

People of that time heard of the birth of the saviour, I am sure the shepherds did not keep that news to themselves, and the wise men would have told of their journey as well. But then what? Did many speak of the wise child in the temple? Or the man who turned water to wine? That would be the faded colours in the Christmas light. John the Baptist started his ministry so we could be led to the light. The brilliant

steady light, one like our Christ candle. That is now our job, just as John the Baptist testified to the ongoing light of Christmas so shall we.

Christmas is light, an ongoing light that after the brilliant colours fade, keep the darkness at bay.

The brilliant colours of the sunrise are just the lead up to the brilliant light of the sun. John the Baptist is to remind us Christmas is not over, the brilliant events of Christmas leads us to the brilliant light of God's son. Amen.