

December 13 – Third Sunday of Advent

John 9:4-5 (NRSV)

We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work.⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

(Related Scriptures: John 11:9 and I Thessalonians 5:16-18)

In 1995, Laura and I stepped into Forest Hill church and felt a welcoming spirit and stayed. In the years that followed, we participated in Journey to Bethlehem, led Sunday School classes, served as youth leaders, helped in the nursery, served as lay speakers, decorated for the Christmas season, helped with consignment sales and many other activities to share the light of Christ with others and be bathed in the light of Christ.

The last twenty-five years have passed quite suddenly. As this devotion is written, the pandemic has threatened to cast a very dark shadow on the world. It feels like too much of what we think of as normal is on pause and is exacerbated by uncertainty. The pandemic can allow us to feel separated or exhausted from one another or even far from the light of our Lord. Now, more than ever, the Advent season is our reminder that Christ was born to provide a light for us. It is a never-ending beacon that unifies us and shows us the way to true joy and rest.

In spite of the current, unusual circumstances, we must not let time get away from us and lapse into a state of waiting for the pandemic or other difficulties to pass. We must not waiver from the Lord’s intentions for us. Like our time on earth, the pandemic is temporary. The light of Christ is the only way to see our way out of the darkness. We must seek the light. We must share the light. We must work in the light because the night is coming when no one can work.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, in this Advent season, we give thanks for the birth of savior that is the light of the world. Give us strength and hope and peace that your light will navigate each of us through the pandemic and all of our burdens. Help us remember to give thanks in all circumstances so that we can realize our full purpose to love you and glorify you. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

~ Scott Crowell