

Dec 28

Is 61:10-62:2

Ps. 147

Gal 3:23-25,4:4-7

John 1:1-18

May the words of my mouth and the secret meditations of our hearts be always acceptable in your sight, O Lord our strength and redeemer.

Once upon a time.... Don't all good stories start that way?

Once upon a time, not all that long ago, a young woman was showing off her new kitchen to her grandmother.

She was so proud of all the very latest things that the stores had to offer. And it was all so cleverly situated in the cabinets to make using it easy.

Of course there was a large stove top, with extra burners, two convection ovens as well as the microwave.. a very quiet dishwasher.. one that saved power by adapting to the number of dishes.. the fridge, with water and ice available without opening doors, loads of storage etc on shelves and in drawers. Then there was a large freezer for all the goodies she would be making for the family.

But in addition there was the fancy coffee pot that could make cappuccino or espresso.. the bread maker, the large mixer, hand held mixers.. beverage mixers.. electric slicer, chopper.. In fact every electric gadget available was there on display.

What impresses you most Grandmother?

Grandmother took her time looking at each and every item in the kitchen. She noted how each would make her granddaughters life easier.

Then looking at her grand daughter with love..

What impresses me most is the power that makes all these things work!

Those of us who have lived with electricity and gas power in our homes smile at her answer.. and remember what we have read about our ancestors and maybe what we have experienced when a storm leaves us lighting with candles.. and when needed heating with a fireplace.

You are here at St John's.

What impresses you most?

Is it the beautiful building..

the stained glass windows..

the organ which produces such music

the bells in the tower, the hand bells

the choir and its wonderful contribution to the service

The symbols all around that remind us of stories they represent and maybe the friends who gave them...

I hope that like in the story of the kitchen.. each of these play a part in our spiritual lives..

But

I also hope we know...That without God
.all this beauty is flat..

it counts for little or nothing.

But with God.. it all sparkles with the reflected Glory
of God.

Isaiah said... "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my
whole being shall exult in my God, for he has clothes
me with the garments of salvation... he has covered me
with the robe of righteousness..."

Isaiah knew.... What we hear this morning...

In the beginning... was the WORD.. and the WORD
was with God and the WORD was GOD. He was in
the beginning with God. All things came into being
through him, and without him not one thing come into
being. What has come into being in him was LIFE,
and the life was the light of all people.

The WORD became flesh.. (human) showing us
glory.. the glory of God.. to have the power to LIVE..
not exist like the equipment in a kitchen without power

From the Word made flesh.. Jesus, we have received
light and life, grace and truth.

As some thoughts from Mary Hardison assures us..

*We are known by God, in both times of darkness
and Light. (And we are living through some
very dark times).*

*God's light, Life and Presence does not effect
either.*

*God's Light does not always drive away our
darkness
Pain, grief, doubt fears, self centeredness, or
confusion;*

*But God's steadfast 'Presence' with us in the
midst of darkness
Does not allow the darkness to consume us.*

*Even when our eyes and hearts are blind to
God's Light and Life in us and in our world,
God is with us, so we are one in the Light..*

*The Light still shines among us and in this is
LIFE, HOPE AND PEACE for all people.*

Remember. With God, nothing is impossible.

Now look around you again..

Do you see God's glory reflected around you..

In the beauty of this place, sanctified by much praise
and the many prayers offered here..

But even more in the light (life) in your neighbor's
eyes,
the lift of the head, the smile on the face..

Where ever you are , where ever you go.. Always look
for God's gifts. God's grace, and truth,
Look for Life, Hope and Peace.
The power of the WORD made flesh, dwelling among
us, within us.

The Christ dwelling in me greets the Christ dwelling in
you. Amen.