



ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A MESSAGE FROM THE REV. ELIZABETH COLTON

Advent Sermon Video

Click below to hear **The Rev. Frank Allen's** Sunday sermon preview for the Third Sunday of Advent, December 13th, 2020.



*Longing for light
we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.*

Bernadette Farrell

Dear People of St. David's,

As I write it's about 4:15 PM, and it is already dark enough to need some lights on, even though it is not yet sunset. We all long for light in the darkness of December - the longing for The Light of Christ, and light in our physical world as we get closer to the winter solstice. The phrase from Isaiah "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Isaiah 2:9a) echoes in my heart, and I'm sure in yours as well. On December 6, St. David's lit up the churchyard to vanquish the darkness of the long nights. It is so beautiful! We have a great need for light!

Sunday, December 13 is the third Sunday in Advent, and this year it falls on the Feast of St. Lucy. Lucy was martyred in the year 304. There are many myths about Lucy, but her most prominent connection is to light and Light. Her name means light, and Scandinavian countries have long celebrated her with festivals of light, not just on one day, but for as much as a week. That's because at one point in our history with various calendars, the winter solstice fell on December 13, a perfect day to celebrate the saint of light. These days, of course, the solstice is December 21, but in this particularly long and dark Advent season, our waiting often feels frustrating. We wait for the Christmas celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Second Coming, a vaccine, and the restoration of some kind of "normal life." So let's celebrate Lucy and get a hint of the winter solstice a bit early! We long to turn the corner, for daylight to increase, not decrease, for life to become more "normal," not more abnormal.

One endearing myth is that Lucy served the poor who lived in catacombs, and because she wanted to have her hands free, she devised a sort of fourth-century miner's cap. It was a band around her head to hold candles in place so she could see in the dark caves. When Lucy was on the way, people saw her light first. But the light was a symbol, of which Lucy was likely unaware. Lucy bore the Light of Christ, as she brought food and aid to the poor who lived below ground.

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' (Matthew 25:37-40)

Another endearing myth is that Lucy carried sweetness, in the form of sweetbreads, ginger cookies, and spiced wine. In Italy, where Lucy is supposed to have halted a famine with a ship arriving bringing a load of rice, rice is eaten all day, creatively prepared in many forms. As we know, rice is the bread of life in many parts of the world. Lucy brings that which sustains life, and that which makes it sweet – even in the dark.

Like Lucy, may we continue to serve one another in the darkness. The people of St. David's have been extraordinarily generous this year in sharing resources throughout this pandemic time, and I know that will continue. The Light is coming, and we will soon celebrate that great Light among us.

Isaiah has more to say: "those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined." (Isaiah 9:2b). So look ahead, brothers and sisters, serve up something sweet and warm and remember Santa Lucia, and be illumined. "Loving God, for the salvation of all you gave Jesus Christ as light to a world in darkness: Illumine us, with your daughter Lucy, with the light of Christ, that by the merits of his passion we may be led to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever. Amen." (Holy Women, Holy Men)

Faithfully,

Liz



**Livestream Worship Services
(No In-Person Worship)**

Rite II | Sundays | 9:15am | [*Watch Here*](#)

Lessons & Carols | Sunday | 5:00pm | [*Watch Here*](#)

Advent Musical Meditations | Wednesdays | 6:30pm | [*Watch Here*](#)
