

Merry Christmas my St David's Family,

This is a Christmas for the record books, I imagine this is going to be a Christmas that Ill tell my grandchildren about. I might tell them a story of that one Christmas with our youth group, we had to have a Christmas party over zoom, and we had a secret santa gif exchange.

Instead of going out and getting a gift for your person you had to search through the Internet to find a Gif. Just in case you don't know, a gif, g-i-f is a funny Internet picture with a silly joke that is attached to it. It was so much fun.

Ill definitely tell my future grandchildren about that one Christmas how the whole church came together during a pandemic to decorate their church with lights.

I'll tell them about how much joy that brought to us all during this time. These are fun things but something deeper and more profound is happening here. If I may I would like to reread a portion of our gospel lesson from John, we call this John's prologue. It says,

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 came into being.

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

I have a simple message that I want to share with you today, its something that you already know, deep down, deep in your bones... Darkness does not win. Let me say that again, darkness does not win.

John opens up his gospel, john begins to tell the story about Jesus the Christ with three very familiar words. In the Beginning.

These words should be familiar to you, I hope, because this is how the entire bible begins, page one, chapter one, verse one. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. In the beginning was the Word.

John is trying to show us that Jesus-who is the word made flesh, always was, and not just always was, but as john says that all things came into being through him.

That the Word, is Gods creative and manifesting presence. God through the word created the heavens and the earth. And then In the very beginning there was darkness, darkness all around. And then What's the very first thing that God said? Let there be light. Let there be light.

God from the very beginning looked around and saw darkness covering the earth.

God said im going to have to deal with this darkness because darkness is not my way, darkness is not my will, my creation is not going to thrive in darkness. So God dispels the darkness with **four words**, Let there be light.

God from the beginning has always handled darkness. I know it to be true that God didn't stop saying those four words in the beginning of time. God speaks those same four words over each and every one of our lives, let there be light. God has always handled darkness.

Its interesting and reveals a truth about God what John does in these verses. You may notice that the first four verses are in the past tense. John is talking about what God has done.

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. In him **was** life and the life was the light of all people.

But verse 5 talks about what God is still doing. Verse 5 says the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

So even though God dealt with darkness in creation,
God still has to deal with darkness right here and right
now.

Darkness may have been defeated in the beginning, but
darkness is never destroyed. Darkness always has a way
of coming back.

There's an old saying, trouble may go away, but it don't
go too far. Every time that darkness creeps back in God
speaks those four words over it, let there be light!

Darkness does not win.... This word, this life, as John says, was the light of all people. Jesus. We are gathered here today on this Christmas day,

and make no mistake about it we are gathered together, let me show you, right now, wherever you are, type into this live stream,

let there be light... We are a church community that gathers around the light of all people.

Light lives here! Time and again in the midst of all the darkness that we are confronted with in the world and in our lives, God looks over all of us, looks over all the darkness and speaks the very first words spoken in all of eternity, Let there be light.

Darkness does not win, it cannot. Not when God speaks those 4 words, not when the light of all people lives in us. Not as we work together to change this community, not as we walk this way of love, darkness does not win.

So this Christmas day may we celebrate the light. That light that shines always in the darkness.

Darkness does not win, because God said,

Let there be light.

Amen