

Reflection Wednesday Advent week 4 – 2020

In most histories, certain people stand out. In the Old Testament, Elijah was one such person. As one of the early prophets, he performed some amazing feats, so much so that, according to history, he did not die but was taken up to heaven on a fiery chariot. As time passed, a belief developed that Elijah would return to announce the arrival of the promised Messiah. In the New Testament, John the Baptist was eventually equated with Elijah. John's birth that we reflect on today is already announcing that the Messiah, Jesus, would soon be here. Even in his birth John was preparing the way for Jesus. This is what we are doing now!

The Coming of the Light

...Christmas celebrates the dawn of the Light of the World. The powers of darkness are overcome by Jesus coming to share our life. The long reign of sin is ended and grace has been poured out upon the earth. The Sun of Justice has arisen, and evil is vanquished."

Perhaps the hardest thing to remember about Christmas is this. "It celebrates the incarnation, not just the nativity. The incarnation is an on-going process of salvation, while the nativity is the once-for-all-historical event of Bethlehem. We do not really celebrate Christ's 'birthday,' remembering something that happened long ago. We celebrate the stupendous fact of the incarnation, God entering our world so thoroughly that nothing has been the same since. And God continues to take flesh in our midst, in the men and women and children who form his body today. And the birth we celebrate is not just the past historical event but Christ's continuing birth in his members, accomplished by the power of the Spirit through the waters of baptism.

"...What we celebrate is our redemption in Christ and the transformation of all creation by the presence of the divine in our midst."

- **What's a light year?** Same thing as a regular year but with less calories.
- **2,000 light bulbs stolen** Investigators still in the dark!!
- **Why do fluorescent lights hum?** They don't know the words.