



A Hole in the Dark
A Christmas Eve Sermon
John 1:1-14

Sunday, December 24th, 2017 ♦ 5 and 11 o'clock candlelight services
First Federated Church, Peoria, Illinois
The Rev. Dr. Forrest Krummel, Jr.

Text: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. (v. 5)

This is the 3rd day after the Winter Solstice,
the darkest and longest night of the year.

In the midst to darkness,
John tells us in his gospel,
there is a light,
a light that the darkness cannot hide.

“You are the light of the world,”
Jesus told those who would take him seriously.
“One doesn’t light a lantern and hid it under a basket.
No, let you light so shine before others
that they give glory to your Father in heaven.”

In the stillness of a dark night
an angel of the Lord stood before shepherds watching their flock
and the glory of the Lord shone around them.

“Do not be afraid,”
the angel said,
“for I am bring you good news of great joy.

To you this day,
in the city of David
a Savior has been born.”

And then a multitude of the heavenly host appeared
praising God
and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest,
peace one earth
and goodwill to everyone.”

A few months ago

when I was in Scotland

I saw Robert Louis Stevenson's boyhood home
in Edinburgh.

Stevenson was a sickly child.

Biographers suspect that he had tuberculosis.

One evening he sat by the window in his bedroom
peering into the darkness of the night.

His parents asked him,

"Robert, what in the world are you looking at out there?"

With great excitement he point to the city "leerie"
or lamplighter.

"Look at that man;

he punching holes into the darkness!"

As someone far wiser than I once observed,

When we take Jesus seriously

and dedicate ourselves to furthering the purposes of God's Kingdom,
we punch holes in the darkness.

When we choose to forgive those who have hurt us,
we punch holes in the darkness.

When we sacrifice our comfort and resources to help others in need,
we punch holes in the darkness.

When we pray for those who dislike, despise us, or even hate us to the point of wishing of gone or dead,
we punch holes in the darkness.

When we take time to listen,
really listen,

we punch holes in the darkness.

When we let go of worry and replace it by praising God for the tiny glimpses of God's grace in our lives,
we punch holes in the darkness.

When we offer kind words in return to harsh ones,
when we turn the other cheek,
when we willingly walk the second mile,
we punch holes in the darkness.

On this second most holy of nights in the Christian faith
we do well to remember the light that came into this world
through the birth of a child;
Mary and Joseph's child,
the son of David
and the Son of God.

May God's light enlighten your path in darkness;
May God's comforting presence, comfort you in your affliction;
May the true gifts of this season—

Love,
Peace,
Hope,
and Joy

Abide with you Tonight,
Tomorrow
and Forever.

To God be the glory.
Amen.