

Message Series: **'Advent...Christmas is Coming'**

Message Title: **'A Light in the Darkness'**

Scripture: **Isaiah 9:2; John 8:12**

Teacher: Stephen Mason

Date: Sunday, November 27, 2016

- *"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David)." Luke 2:1,3-4 (KJV)*
- Light, Presence, Joy, Peace, Hope, Salvation, Purpose
- *"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned." Isaiah 9:2 (NIV)*
- DARKNESS
- "If only it were all so simple! If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?"
~ Alexander Solzhenitzen
- Darkness 'out there'
Darkness 'in here'
- God says, "I know and I care."
- *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."*
John 3:16-17 (NIV)
- Jesus' Two Great Gifts:
 1. Forgiveness of Sins
 2. The Holy Spirit
- *"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden." Matthew 5:14 (NIV)*

➤ *“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12 (NIV)*

➤ Reflect and Respond

Which prayer most resonates with your heart today? Consider praying the prayer or something similar as you reflect on the light of the single candle and the love of the One who said, “I am the light of the world.”

1. “Jesus, I open my heart to the light of Your presence for the first time. In this moment right now, I commit as much of myself to as much of You as I understand.”
2. “Jesus, in the midst of the darkness of _____, I invite You to shine Your light. How are You asking me to follow You today?”
3. “Jesus, I am willing to be a ‘light-bringer.’ Where are You asking me to shine Your light today?”