



new life fellowship

**Sermon Title: Advent: Darkness Can't Put Out the Light**

**Speaker: Rich Villodas, Lead Pastor**

**Scriptures: John 1:1-5**

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

John 1:1-5 NIV

**Sermon Outline:**

1. Willingness to face darkness.
2. Until we face darkness, we won't be able to face the light. (Christian paradox).
3. Genesis: Communicating a theological truth that when God sends a word, nothing can stop it
4. The world is "out of sync" with God; it's in darkness.
5. Darkness within our heart.
6. Rich and Rosie: introspection as a way to encounter darkness with the light of Christ.
7. Darkness cannot overcome the light of Christ.
8. Pull the curtain just a little bit.
9. Identify darkness in us.
10. Locate the darkness around us.
11. Resist the ways of darkness.
12. Don't fear the darkness.

**Sermon Summary:**

This Sunday Pastor Rich preaches out of John 1, opening up the Advent season with the realization that nothing can put out the light that is Christ.

**Sermon Questions:**

What words or phrases from this scripture passage resonated in you as you read them? Why?

- How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? How so?
- How has your family of origin made it easy or difficult for you to face darkness and difficulty? How is that effecting you in this season of life?
- What darkness is God inviting you to face in your life?
- Knowing that Jesus is the Eternal One, how does this offer you comfort? Does your life reflect the Lordship of Christ?
- Are you able to spot the darkness in your own heart? How is God calling you to fight the darkness within?
- What resonates with you when you hear Rich's story about his communication with Rosie? How does it make you feel? What might your feeling be teaching you about you?
- Where do you need to "pull the curtain just a little bit" in your life?
- How can you begin to name the darkness in your life so God's light can shine on those areas?