



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Advent: The Light that Overcomes

Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor

Scripture: John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome^[a] it.
(NIV)

Sermon Outline:

Advent is the new year in the church calendar. It starts of the new year in the Christian calendar.

The world we live in is so dark - darkness of a world entangled in sin, marked by violence, political idolatry and hostility and a global pandemic.

The challenge with darkness is not only to recognize the darkness that is present outside in our world but also the darkness that lives within each one of us. We are either coming out of a season of darkness, in a season of darkness or entering into a season of darkness. Living in this world, we are confronted by darkness of many kinds.

Situational Darkness

No consolation in the moment

Navigational Darkness

No direction in the moment

Existential Darkness

No hope for the future

Even in darkness, we can live with great hope. Creation story in Genesis established the truth that whenever God speaks a word, nothing can stop it and God's word comes to pass. Whenever God speaks, there is nothing darkness can do about it.

John is letting us know that the reason we exist today is because of what Jesus Christ has done. Jesus Christ is holding it all together. Jesus Christ is more than a human being, more than a teacher.

John is letting us know three truths about Jesus: Jesus did not begin to exist when he was born (the pre-existence of Jesus), the Father and the Son are united as one (the co-existence of Jesus) and there is never a moment when Jesus came into being, as he always being there (the self-existence of Jesus).

John is talking about a world trapped in sin where we cannot rescue ourselves. We need something greater than ourselves to help us out of the darkness. John is talking about the light that comes from Jesus Christ.

Advent reminds us that although it is dark the light shines in the darkness. No matter how dark it gets, darkness cannot overcome the light. The light that Jesus Christ brings is what the world needs to step out of our darkness.

God's light is always shining. The question is are we moving toward and opening up ourselves to the light of God?

What does it mean to open ourselves up to the light?

- Must confess the darkness within.
- Be a source of light for those in darkness.
- Don't fear the darkness.

We don't need to fear because God's light is coming. God dwells in the darkness and knows how to work in the dark. The dark and light are the same thing to God.

God sees you, hears you and will sustain you. Christianity promises that in your darkest moment's God will be with you.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor begins our new Advent Series: The Light that Overcomes. Pastor Rich explores the ways that Christ's light overcomes the darkness we are experiencing in our world and within ourselves.

Sermon Questions:

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin did you grow up experiencing seasons of darkness? Did you have family members or others around who could support you during these seasons in your life? Can you find time this week to journal about these experiences, offering them up to God in your time of prayer?
3. In the present season in your life, where do you see yourself in terms of the three types of darkness described above? Are you experiencing situational darkness feeling anxious or worried, wondering when will the current problems your experiencing be solved? Are you experiencing navigational darkness where you are confused, wondering what your next step is and wondering if God is with you? Maybe you are experiencing existential darkness feeling hopeless and wondering does God really exist?
4. Are you able to name the darkness within yourself? How do you feel when you hear that the more we confess our darkness the more the light can come in? It can be extremely hard to name the darkness within ourselves. Are you able to find time this week to confess the darkness within yourself to God or a trusted brother or sister in Christ, asking for healing?
5. What does it look like for you to be a light for those experiencing great darkness? Where and how can you be a source of light for others? Offer this up to God, asking for wisdom and guidance about how and who you might be able to offer a source of light to this week.