

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Second Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 4) – June 2, 2024

“For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

– 2 Corinthians 4:5–6 –

At a recent lock-in we held with the youth of our congregation, we played a game of hide-and-seek in the dark. Our church building is an old building, and it has had its share of renovations and additions, so it is fantastic for playing hide-and-seek in the dark. Our youth range in age from third grade to eighth grade. As the game begins, the kids are full of excitement and intrigue. However, once they begin seeking for others in the dark church, noises and shadows that weren’t such a big deal before, now frighten those whose job is to find others hiding in the dark.

As the night grows long and just before bedtime arrives at midnight, we have a time of evening prayer and devotion in the sanctuary. It’s still dark, except for a few lights in the chancel area. The kids are amazed at how just a little light can reveal so much... and make them feel safe and secure in the darkness.

In our lives as Christians, we have moments where we feel “in the dark,” unsure of what surrounds us. At times in our lives, the path set before us is clearly lit; we feel like we can see for miles ahead. But more often than not, we only have the first step right in front of us illuminated. How can we move forward? How can we not stay frozen in place because we can’t see what lies ahead? We feel as though we need knowledge. We need to know that path that God has laid out for us, but God doesn’t give us the whole picture. That’s what faith is all about: trusting that God will lead us along the way, even if it seems dangerous and dark.

What does God give us? Or maybe a better question is: who does God give us? Jesus Christ. Jesus is the “Light of the World,” the Light no darkness can overcome. If we call to mind all the gifts God has given to us in Christ, what do we have to be afraid of? Why do we need to know all of God’s plans? We really don’t have any reason to be afraid or worried, but we all know that’s easier said than done. It’s a part of who we are as humans, broken and sinful. We doubt if God really has our best interests at heart. We doubt if we can get through this trial in life or that challenge at work. But God has given us all we need to know in the gift of Jesus Christ. That alone can give us peace.

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