

Rev. Janet Doyle  
Elmer Presbyterian Church  
Christmas Eve 2022  
December 24, 2022

## **Christmas Homily: Be Born in Us Today: Bringing Light**

In John 8:12 Jesus spoke to the people and said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”

Tonight we celebrate the light from the star, the light from the manger, and the light that John reminds us to pay attention to. John the Baptist told us the light was coming.

God has given us light to see our way. Not only to see our own way though, but to spread the light of this day, the light of Christmas, Christ in our hearts, to the world around us. Jesus wants us to spread his love and blessings around to our family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, community and to the ends of the earth.

Tonight we have a chance to take Christmas with us. We can take the light with us so that the light of the star that leads the shepherds can also lead others to the Christ Child, to the Savior. The light we receive tonight pales all others. Emmanuel, God is with us. Tonight, a baby sleeps. The promise of a redeemer fulfilled. For now we revel in God’s goodness and take his love with us when we leave this place.

*“For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. He will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”* (Isaiah 9:6-7) She named him Jesus.

The Son Mary delivered will deliver all people from their sins. The greatest gift ever given – the one who brings hope and light to our dark world.

When you walk with Jesus you never walk in the dark for he is the Light of the World,

Listen to some of the words to the hymn **“O Holy Night”** in which the words call us to hope, to rejoicing, and to humble worship of the Light of the World.

“O Holy night, the stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Savior’s birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine!  
O night when Christ was Born!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, with glowing heart by his cradle we stand. So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, here came the wise men from the Orient land. The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger, in all our trials born to be our friend; he knows our need, he guards us from all danger. Behold your King; before him lowly bend!”

The long winter nights help us to remember that we need the Light of the World to come into our darkness once again; we need the Word of God to speak into the chaos of our lives to restore order and peace and hope.

This Christmas Eve of 2022 may Christ be born in us bringing blessings, bringing renewal and peace, bringing everlasting joy, bringing love and glory, and bringing the light of eternal hope.

*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.”*

(John 1:14) We are called to shine His light into the darkness so people can find the path to Jesus who is the Way, and the Truth and the Life.

### ***Christmas Prayer:***

God of Hope and transformation, you offer us new and everlasting life in Jesus Christ. Grant that we may see your hand at work in new and creative ways each day. Be the Light shining in our darkness. Guide us when we cannot see. Lift us up when we fall down. Open the window to new possibilities. Surround us with your ever-present love, so we may be light to others in your Name. You bring joy, peace, mercy and love into our lives. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger tonight. May it always lead us to Jesus and his humble birth that changed the world and our lives. We pray all this in the name of Immanuel, God with us, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.