

Shadow and Light

John 8: 12

Jesus the Light of the World

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

"In this strange season, when we are suspended between realization and expectation, may we be found honest about the darkness, more perceptive of the light." Jack Boozer

This quote was shared with me a few months back, while I was planning our Advent Theme. It describes the Advent season perfectly. It also describes this strange season in which we are now, as well.

Our Advent and Christmas celebrations will look a little different than in years past. We may notice the darkness more this year and wonder, how can we celebrate the coming of God's Kingdom with joy? There is a mix of frustration and grief found within our tidings of comfort and hope.

To this strange season, we come knowing that Christ came not to dispel the darkness but to teach us to dwell with integrity, compassion and love in the midst of ambiguity. The one who grew in the fertile darkness of Mary's womb knew the darkness is not evil itself. Rather it can become the tending place in which our longings for healing, justice and peace grow and come to birth...

This is the gift that God holds out to us in this season: to [both] carry the light and to see in the dark and to find the shape of things in the shadows. With a perception that goes beyond visual sight, we are called to know and to name the gifts of the night and to share the visions of [peace, healing, and new life] which emerge from the darkness. Once again, we tell a story about darkness giving birth to light, about seemingly endless waiting, and about what lies at the end of all our waiting. We tell a story about finding strength in the shadows and discovering God's presence which lights our way. In Shadow and Light, we tell the story of God's love.