



Darkness Always Dissipates in the Presence of Light!

I was reminded lately from a mentor that it is very easy to focus on the one or two difficult things in our lives and let them consume us or overshadow all the other good that is indeed present. We let the darkness overshadow all the light. I have some difficult things happening in my life, as I know all of you do as well, but there are indeed so many blessings—so much light. I don't want to let the difficulties obscure my view of the good or of the light! I am grateful for family, friends, our wonderful church family, meaningful work, a roof over my head, and food to eat. In addition, we live in such a beautiful area and we live in a country with relative security and opportunities. We have a God who loves us dearly, guides us when we are willing to listen and even graciously when we don't. We have a God who adopts us as precious sons and daughters and died for us so he could be with us forever.

In the midst of a pandemic, a heated political climate, surviving wildfires, and all that 2020 as dished up, we still have much to be grateful for! So, I encourage us to take time right now (pause your reading) and think of 5, no 10 things/people you are grateful for and thank God, for November is the month of Thanksgiving, and in the 8th month of this pandemic we need to continue to focus on the light!

I missed not having our Harvest Dinner this year! The Harvest Dinner always helps me reflect on gratitude, reminds me that gratitude spills over in generosity towards others as we always gave to a cause at our Harvest Dinner, and connects us all of the wider Westview community. It is always a wonderful celebration of our relationships and of God's goodness. But alas, what else has not been "normal" this year!

Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations won't be "normal" either, but we will find new creative ways to celebrate, and to be grateful in the little things. In the midst of shorter days and the darker months of winter—in the midst of the times in our lives when it feels like the darkness is overwhelming, John 1:5 reminds us, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it."

"Even in the darkest night. That light once shined and will shine still. God's way of love is the way of life. It is the light of the world. And the light of that love shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not, cannot, and will not overcome it!"- The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Bishop, Episcopal Church.

Amen!

I am grateful for you, the Westview Family. You are a source of comfort, support, and joy when at times the darkness feels overwhelming. May you experience God's abundant joy even amidst these difficult times.

Pastor Dan