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Subject: Reflections - Pastor Chris
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Testify to the light

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. (John 1:6-8)

John, of course, is John the Baptist. The great and odd prophet, John, is only a character actor in the play. He is not the star, Jesus is! We, like John, are called to bear witness, to testify to the light that is Jesus, to be the behind-the-scenes players.

Aren't people decorating their homes for Christmas like never before, and even earlier than usual? Is there a "Christmas-Vacation" competition in your neighborhood? You know, a race to find out whose light display and accessories will stand out from the rest. There may even be a prize in your community for the "best-decorated" house. It may be a friendly enterprise, but it may also discourage what God, through the Gospel of John, is calling us to be, witnesses to the light, not The Light!

I made a big mistake a couple of weeks ago. I should have consulted with mv wise. pushing-



WORSHIP AT TRINITY

SATURDAY AT 5:00PM
SUNDAY AT 10:00AM
SPANISH LANGUAGE AT
11:30AM

also
LIVE STREAMING OF
SUNDAY WORSHIP AT TRINITY
Sundays at 10:00 am & 11:30AM

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... my wife, passing thirty daughter (30 really?). She would have told me, "Now that is a dumb idea, dad", and she would have been right. However, I assumed ... and we all know how dangerous it is to assume. I assumed that during COVID, people would not be inundating the malls in search of the perfect Christmas gifts for people on their lists. As soon as I arrived, I realized what I done with my assumption. The packed parking lot was only a preview of the teaming corridors inside. Maybe nothing can stop our desire, our need to present the perfect present on Christmas morning. You know, the things that will be lost and / or forgotten by next Christmas.

During the Christmas season in the world, the Advent Season in the church, it is time to prepare. However, as Christians, our preparation should be 180 degrees different than that which is described above. We have an opportunity to celebrate the light of Christ in the world and the light which will be fully revealed when Jesus comes again as victorious lord of all. We should be reminded that we are ready for The Light, through the blood of Jesus. We are forgiven. We are saved from the consequence of sin which is death.

Our job, now and always, is to bear testimony to the light that enables us to see in the darkness, the light that is meant to light the way for all of God's children. Although we are called to be character actors, to blend into the background, God's call to us makes us part of the solution, and it will bless us infinitely when we respond to God's intentions for us. Yes, it is a broad and never-ending blessing to not be The Light, but to be the ones to who are called to bear witness to the light.

So, I pray that our Christmas decorations help point us to The Light, and that our shopping brings glory to God, to Jesus, The Light of the

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world. No matter how different this season seems, we are blessed with another chance to point to the light of Christ, now and every day of our journey with Jesus.

I wish you a meaningful Advent and a most blessed Christmas!

In Christ,
Pastor Chris



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