



Racine Dominicans
Committed to Truth + Compelled to Justice

PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

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Let your Light Shine

By S. Carla Mae Streeter

We have experienced the shortest day of the year, and the light is growing stronger each day. Liturgically, we have just celebrated the season of lights. But as we listen to the evening news, we often feel anything but lightsome. What are we to make of this contrast? Often we sense that the Church lives in its own faith-world, while I live in the real world. But after a bit of thought, maybe what we really all live in, is the tension between light and darkness. There is a tug-of-war, and I have to decide daily what side I'm on...!



Interestingly, this is exactly what the Dominican shield captures. Whether viewed from the bottom up or the top down, the light is piercing the darkness. Maybe that is just the point: we live in the tension between light and darkness, between truth and lies, between peace and war, between the now and the not-yet.

The scriptures for this time right after Christmas assure us of one thing: the Light has come, and the darkness is not going to overcome it. So, on our part we need to focus. Being wishy-washy will bring us only confusion. We need to make a decision to keep our eyes on the prize. But there is more. The Light has made its home in our DNA...our 'stuff'...in our very flesh. There is nowhere to run when we look in the mirror. The deed is done. There is light behind our eyes...in fact, we are told we are the light of the world, because the One who has taken our flesh is the Light of the world. The darkness might try to snuff it out, but it doesn't have a chance against that Love-light. We didn't put it there, and even if we cover it with a bushel, we are not going to kill it. This is to be our focus. This is our constant gratitude, no matter how the darkness tries to smother it. Yes, do let your light shine for me and all to see...

Little One,
Veiled in my flesh,
Expression of the Father's Glory
wrapped in swaddling clothes, my light is hidden too.
My skin hides my light from me.
But you see what I cannot see.
You have given Yourself to me.
Help me to remember
when the darkness closes in...to let your light shine.

Thank you to Associate Lisa Marie Duffield for this month's reflections.

The Epiphany of the Lord | January 7 | Is 60:1-6

“This little light of mine...” Many of us learned this song in childhood that teaches us what to do with Our Light. Hide it under a basket (No!), let Satan blow it out (No!), Let it shine till Jesus comes (Yes!)? Written by Harry Dixon Loes in the 1920s as a children’s bible school song, it took on a new life in the 1950s as inspiration in the Civil Rights Movement. This is what our Light should do! Grow in us as children and then inspire us to Rise. “Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you.”

What needs to grow in you so that you can rise and shine?

Second Sunday in Ord. Time | January 14 | 1 Sam 3:3-19, 1 Cor 6:13-20, Jn 1:35-42

Our three readings today show that God calls each of us at different times in our life, but not always in the same way. Sometimes like Samuel we encounter Christ in a completely new way. Sometimes like Andrew and Peter, we already know about Christ but are led into a deeper relationship. Sometimes however it is our own behavior which is preventing us from being a full member of the body of Christ.

How am I being called to be closer to Christ?

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time | January 21 | Jon 3:1-5, 10, Mk 1:14-20

Stop. Start. Change. Repent. Today’s call is a call to action. Prayer and contemplation, meetings and research – these habits help us to be prepared to experience the call of God. When that day comes, however, when Jesus calls us to something new, then it is time to act.

Where do I need to turn from what I have been doing and take action?

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time | January 28 | Dt 18:15-20, Mk 1:21-28

Many people and circumstances may have been given the voice of God in our world, and God asks us to respect and honor that message. Leaders, pastors, mentors, and friends can be the truth-bearers in our lives. But when Jesus speaks to us, he speaks right into our spirit and commands with authority.

What speaks with authority in my life?