

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2005

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalms 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14(15-20)

In the name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

How dependent we are on light! Darkness is alien – frightening. We have become so accustomed to having light at our command; we are lost without it. We have become so used to the glare of light – the artificial lights of our age – blotting out the darkness, blotting out the night sky.

It was not so on the night of Our Lord's birth – on that first great moment of the Incarnation. Our Lord was born in darkness – broken at most by a flickering candle. Our Lord was born in a place of deep shadows. Can we even begin to comprehend that world?

Place yourself there for a moment. Place yourself on a hillside above a sleeping village. Look down upon those tiny candles that light those humble homes – light the place where the baby Jesus lies.

Then look up. See the darkness pierced by the light of a million stars, endless stars sweeping across that night sky, driving away the darkness.

Look up at the glory of God filling the heavens and hear the angels sing.

Up there, in that night sky, one star shines more brightly than all the rest this night. Down here, in our earthly world, in that sleeping village at our feet, one star shines – the morning star of a new world – the first and brightest star of a new age for a world grown dark and cold – light and warmth in the form of the infant Jesus.

Those stars shine tonight for us all if we will see them; those angels sing tonight for you and for me if we will hear them. The light of the world shines still.

In His Holy Name.