



Reflection from Deacon Ross

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Cycle B

March 14, 2021

Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23 Psalm 137:1-6 Ephesians 2:4-10 John 3:14-21

This past Thursday evening President Biden addressed the nation on the one-year anniversary of the declaration of the Coronavirus pandemic. The speech was headlined: “Finding light in the darkness.”

For most of us this past year has indeed been a time of darkness: loss of hundreds of thousands of lives to Covid; serious health issues; loss of jobs; loss of mobility; social companionship replaced with social distancing and stay-at-home orders; and more.

We are in mid-Lent right now. The Lent that accompanied the beginning of this Covid pandemic last year seemed perhaps to have not ended at Easter. We were not able to celebrate the Paschal Mysteries of the Easter Season as we had in the years before. The deaths, sickness, restrictions and inconveniences imposed under Covid have continued in our lives for the whole year.

Perhaps we are now at point when we can really experience “finding light in the darkness.” The light’s always been there. It is just that the darkness of this past year has made it harder for us to see that light. John in the gospel tells us, “And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light....”

Jesus tells Nicodemus: “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.” Moses provided hope and light for the struggling Hebrew people; Jesus gives life and light to all who believe in him.

John goes on, “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but have everlasting life.” There is light in the darkness of this life, even when we aren’t sure we see it. God’s love is with us. The remaining weeks of Lent give us the opportunity to focus our sight on Jesus Christ aglow with the love of God. At Easter the Paschal candle at church or in our homes will bring to mind that light of God burning to guide us into the fullness of Light – that we have already received in baptism. That light will burn ever brighter and light the darkness of our lives and the darkness of a world yearning for a new start of health, companionship and peace.

~ Peace,

Deacon Ross