

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

CHRISTMAS EVE 2021

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"A Light for the World"

Based on Isaiah 9:2-7

*For to us a child is born, to us a
son is given,
and the government will be
on his shoulders.
And he will be
called Wonderful
Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace.
Of the greatness of his
government and peace there
will be no end.
He will reign on David's
throne and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding
it with justice and
righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of
the LORD Almighty will
accomplish this. (v 6,7)*

The child has been born,
The Saviour is given.
He will reign forever.
The zeal of the Lord will
accomplish this.

We come once again, to this
Holy Night, where all things
are possible, and all problems
may be pushed aside for a
time. For just a moment, in
the miracle and majesty of the
creche, we can believe that
this God of ours really can

accomplish the impossible
and the improbable.

And then, just like the newest
restrictions of COVID attempt
to dampen our Christmas
Spirit, the reality of life
threatens to cast gloom over
our Holy Moment.

How can it be in a world that
is becoming more cynical, less
tolerant, more polarized,
encouraging division, and
praising the haves against the
have-nots, that this Holy Story
can break in and change the
course of history?

It can, because "The zeal of
the Lord will accomplish this."
(v7)

I used to think that the word
'zeal' meant something like
'over-enthusiastic,' 'energetic'
or 'passionate,' rather like the
Energizer Bunny on those
silly commercials on
television.

But the word 'zeal' is actually
more intense than any of
those words. Zeal is more like:

"Mark my words..."
"It's a done deal..."
"A fait accompli..."

"Either help me, or get out of
my way, because this IS going
to happen!"

My friends, the world of the
prophet, and the world of
Mary and Joseph were just as
complicated and messy as
ours. It is difficult now, some
two thousand and more years
later, to not read our Holy
Story with some nostalgia and
rose-colored glasses. But the
reality was not the romantic
notion we think it to be. The
world then was just as unjust
as ours, unfair as is ours, with
the poor becoming poorer,
just like ours. Death was
cheap, and life was hard. Few
wanted to listen to matters of
faith, and fewer
still, recognized the Good
News when it arrived.

But into the midst of all that
messiness and unfairness,
God sent His son, to us. God's
zeal, His unwavering love for
His people, and His
unshakeable determination to
move forward with His
master plan, pushed through
the darkness, and held up a
light, for all the world to see.
A baby boy.
A Saviour.
A King.

A light.
A light for the world.
A light to gaze upon.
A light to show us the way to
something better.
A light to cling to when the
darkness wraps itself around
us.

A light.
For all our todays.
And all our tomorrows.
A light.

And so tonight, we will light
our Sanctuary for all our
community to see.
And we will leave the lights on
all night.

A light for those who pass by
to gaze upon.
A light for those to consider
something better.
A light for those who feel
darkness encroaching upon
their hearts.

Tonight, we light the way.
For today.
For tomorrow.
For everyone.
The zeal of the Lord will
accomplish this.
Amen.