



One Page Sermon

By Pastor Robb McCoy

December 26, 2021

Worship Every Sunday at 9:30 AM

Christmas Eve readings and lighting of the Advent wreath

On Christmas Eve, we used the following readings as we relit the candles of Advent and finished with the lighting of the Christ Candle.

The Light of Hope

Romans 5:1-15

Therefore, since we have been made righteous through his faithfulness, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We have access by faith into this grace in which we stand through him, and we boast in the hope of God's glory. But not only that! We even take pride in our problems, because we know that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope. This hope doesn't put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

We light the candle of Hope, for the hope of Christ is rooted in the promises of God that come before all things. God's grace precedes all, and gives us Hope through all times of struggle.

The Light of Peace

Romans 8:1-6

So now there isn't any condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. God has done what was impossible for the Law, since it was weak because of selfishness. God condemned sin in the body by sending his own Son to deal with sin in the same body as humans, who are controlled by sin. He did this so that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us. Now the way we live is based on the Spirit, not based on selfishness. People whose lives are based on selfishness think about selfish things, but people whose lives are based on the Spirit think about things that are related to the Spirit. The attitude that comes from selfishness leads to death, but the attitude that comes from the Spirit leads to life and peace.

We light the candle of Peace, for the path of Christ is one of freedom from the weight of sin. When the grace of Christ justifies us to God, we know peace that surpasses all understanding.

The Light of Joy

Romans 15:1-7, 13

We who are powerful need to be patient with the weakness of those who don't have power, and not please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbors for their good in order to build them up. Christ didn't please himself, but, as it is written, The insults of those who insulted you fell on me. Whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction so that we could have hope through endurance and through the encouragement of the scriptures. May the God of endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude toward each other, similar to Christ Jesus' attitude. That way you can glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ together with one voice.

So welcome each other, in the same way that Christ also welcomed you, for God's glory.... May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We light the candle of Joy for Christ welcomes all who come to him. The sustaining grace of Christ gives us the power to welcome and care for each other.

The Light of Love

1 Corinthians 13:8-13

Love never fails. As for prophecies, they will be brought to an end. As for tongues, they will stop. As for knowledge, it will be brought to an end. We know in part and we prophesy in part; but when the perfect comes, what is partial will be brought to an end. When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, reason like a child, think like a child. But now that I have become a man, I've put an end to childish things. Now we see a reflection in a mirror; then we will see face-to-face. Now I know partially, but then I will know completely in the same way that I have been completely known. Now faith, hope, and love remain—these three things—and the greatest of these is love.

We light the candle of Love God. The grace of Christ gave us many great gifts, but the greatest of these is Love.

The Light of Christ

Luke 2:1-14

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph