

Crossroads Church

a ministry of the Christian Reformed Church

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Christians passionately dedicated to impacting our world with God's love, one person at a time.

Days are growing darker. Since daylight savings left us again, late afternoon has become evening. The darkness continues to close in around us. We are living during the season of increasing darkness. Today, less than 10 hours between sunrise and sunset existed.

Has it ever occurred to you the strangeness that two of the most joyous Christian holidays exist in the midst of the season of darkness? This year, by the time many of us have finished the turkey and mash potatoes (or yams, green bean casserole, etc.) darkness will have enveloped our yards. In a short month, we will celebrate Christmas three days beyond the shortest day of the year.

What is it about Christianity that chooses to celebrate in darkness rather than in light?

I would like to believe it has something to do with the coming of light in the midst of darkness – at least this is one of the images of the Old Testament prophets.

However, I believe the message goes much deeper than this. I believe we are content to celebrate with thanksgiving and joy in the midst of growing darkness because this is what we have learned to do throughout our year. In the midst of the seeming absence of God, when He seems silent and unresponsive, when friends and loved ones hear devastating prognosis or death again stalks where it does not belong we have learned to declare *“There is no one like our God who rides across the heavens to help us and on the clouds in His majesty. The eternal God is our refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.”*

When tears overflow and panic seems ever present we have learned to echo Jeremiah's words as he grieved the death of Jerusalem, *“Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”*

For many the darkness really never has played an issue for we have learned, as one author has stated, “When discouragement tethers our feet to the stakes, when fatigue numbs our spirit, when relentless circumstance hounds us moment by moment and day by day, [we have discovered] that praise both produces and releases energy.”

It is what we do during this season of darkness. We praise. We give thanks. We do not do so as a denial of the evil, the trials, or the problems in our lives. We do not do so as an attempt to deny our struggle with sin and its temptations. Rather, our praise and thanksgiving pours forth because we recognize that our God is greater than anything we face, within or without! *“There is no one like our God who rides across the heavens to help us and on the clouds in His majesty. The eternal God is our refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.”*

Remembering and living in this reality makes even the darkness scatter as the *sun of righteousness rises with healing in its rays.*

Sunday Service

Please join us for Worship at 9:30 a.m. We continue our series *Hebrews' Great Adverb* discovering the practical instructions to life flowing from Jesus' work and life. Our Scripture Reading is Hebrews 13. 11-16. We look forward to seeing you! **Make worship a priority this week – someone is depending on you to share this worship time with them!**

Offering for the Month of November: Our Denominations' Relief Organization - Living Justice, Loving Mercy, Serving Christ: Compelled by God's deep passion for justice & mercy, we join communities around the world to renew hope, reconcile lives, and restore creation.

From your Deacons: *During the month of November, the offerings will be for World Renew, with it specifically going for World Hunger. Each year we have given you the opportunity to give using the Peter Fish Banks for world hunger, which is a great tool to encourage your children to give for World Hunger, using the banks. In previous years we have given our offering for World Hunger on one given Sunday in November, but this year you will have the opportunity to give every Sunday in November either using the Peter Fish Banks or giving during the offering time. The Peter Fish are available on the table in the foyer and need to be returned with your coins or checks the last week in November. Thank you for your prayers and gifts for those in need of food.*
—The Deacons and Social Justice Committee

This Week

Happy Thanksgiving

Please Join us on Thanksgiving Morning,

November 22, 2018, at 9:30 a.m.

for our Thanksgiving Service.

Our offering will be for World Renew.