

30 Days Together
“Immanuel - God With Us”
#30daystogether

Day #21 – Dec. 16th

Text: Luke 1:68-79

“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

Devotion: Pastor Tyler Carter

Colby’s face illuminated with joy after I plugged in our outdoor Christmas lights one Saturday afternoon. The red and white candy canes gave light to the walkway to our house. White lights entangled in the garland on the railing of our steps sparked. With excitement and expectation, Colby looked up towards the roof to see the multicolored lights hanging on the gutters. Her little eyes squinted with curiosity to see if the lights were actually working. I reassured her that they were on, but it was difficult to see them during the day. Later that night, Colby and I were eager to show Natalie and Blake our accomplishments. With the contrast of cold darkness, the warmth of our Christmas lights was now vibrantly on display.

Colby and I both love Christmas lights! There is just something life-giving and peaceful about seeing the darkness of night illuminated with Christmas lights. As we continue our advent journey in our 30 Days Together, we are reminded that we are a people living in darkness - a spiritual darkness in which we are blinded in our sin; a people wandering in the darkness striving for a way out, but unable to see the path. In the midst of being consumed by this spiritual darkness, we often feel alone and afraid.

While we are alone and afraid wandering through our spiritual darkness, a light shines forth from a manger. Jesus the “rising sun” came from Heaven to be our Immanuel, “God with us.” His light shines forth to cut through our spiritual darkness. His light slays the shadow of death. His light illuminates the path to guide us to peace.

Just as Colby was filled with enthusiasm and excitement seeing our Christmas lights, may each of us be filled with joy and peace when we see Jesus, the light of the world.

Closing Prayer: God, we thank you for sending Jesus, our light, in the midst of our spiritual darkness. May we be filled with joy and peace as we rest in the light of Jesus. Amen