

14th Day of Advent
December 14, 2024

“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.”

John 1:6-8

When I hear the words “testify” or “testimony”, I think of “evangelize” or “evangelism”.

When you think of evangelism, what do you picture? Someone standing on a street corner or going door to door to hand out tracts? Do you imagine awkward conversations? It is no wonder the idea of sharing our faith might seem scary. I think that most of us have fears of rejection if we share the gospel; fears that if we pressure or push someone too much, we will push them away, or a fear that we might say the wrong thing or not have the right answer to tough questions.

Somehow, it is very easy to talk to a friend about some great new laundry detergent. But just the opposite to bear witness to God’s grace and love in the world. Throughout my whole life, I have been the last person to feel comfortable evangelizing my faith. It is very strange that now, at St. Matthew, I serve on the Evangelism and Communication team! How did that ever happen? Maybe because it finally dawned on me that I am just sharing a story of who I am, and what is important to me. Maybe we all just need the confidence to bubble up (like detergent) in our body, mind and spirit...to tell a friend a story about our relationship with Christ.

The Gospel of John here reminds us that we, like John the Baptist, are called to bear witness to Christ in the world. To testify about why we continue to follow Jesus in a world where so often brokenness gets the last word. What story do you have to tell?

Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see you, ears to hear you, and words and lives that testify to your life-saving love in the world. Amen.

Beth Johnson