

13th Day of Advent
December 13, 2024

Creator of the Stars of Night, your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

During this Advent season, we hear from the prophet Isaiah words which bring hope in the midst of darkness. The light we seek, indeed we need, does not come from a human source. Our hope is not in governments or power, but in our Lord.

We have known darkness in our lives, times of sorrow and loss, but the hope of that light is always with us.

The light which has come into the world is eternal. We rejoice because that light has shone on us and lives in and with us.

Let us pray: Lord, our light, in this dark time of year, help us to see your light; help us to carry your light to those around us. Help us to know the hope you bring, because our hope is in You. Grant us peace during these days, for You have come and will come again. Amen

Pastor Nancy. W Knol
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Bittinger, MD