

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In preparation for writing this sermon for today, I had just finished reading the gospel passage, when I started reading a commentary. The commentary by Alicia D. Myers referenced "Jesus giving light and life..." I was thinking about these words, "light" and "life," when I looked up and saw a rainbow of colors "dancing" on the wall. The colors appeared like a prism, so I walked over to the window to see what was creating them. I moved a plastic geometric shape that is on the window ledge. As I did, the rainbow of colors moved, as well.

The rainbow made me think of God's covenant with Noah, that God would never again cause a flood to occur that would end humanity. God's forgiveness, grace, and mercy persists today and always, even though human beings continue to fall short of God's desires for them.

Two-thousand (2,000) years ago, human beings' accumulation of sins was so immense that God did something far beyond what any of us could imagine: God sent his son to atone for the sins of all humanity. God sent his son, so that through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, humanity would know the Word made flesh. God sent his son, so that those who believe in Jesus would experience forgiveness, grace and salvation through him.

The rainbow on the wall reminds us that we too can be "light" and "life" for the world. This is not because we can see the rainbow of light made from an inanimate object, but because we believe in the "light of God," whom we have never seen, yet whom we know is present among us.

In our baptism, the Holy Spirit comes to us and kindles our faith, so that we too have the light of God within us! The light is very small, but it grows as we hear God's word in scripture reading, preaching and song. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we can reflect and realize that we, too, can be "light" and "life" for others. As our faith grows through hearing God's word, our hearts are filled to overflowing, and we cannot help but to share the good news and our God-given gifts with others. Thanks be to God, for God's amazing love.

Peace,

Pastor Cathy