

Dear friends:

Everybody I know, including me, wants something more: some want more money, some want more time, some ache for more health, some want more love. On a less individual level, most of us long for an end to division and living in fear. Whatever it is, we all want something. Most of us feel at least an occasional emptiness and we want to fill it. What we crave may differ but we all know what it is to yearn.

We are in the season of Advent, which is the four week period of waiting for the coming of Christ. In this lead-up to Christmas, we have an opportunity to become more aware of this emptiness and our yearnings. At the root of our yearning is a longing for hope, peace, joy and love, all of which may be met in the path to God that is Jesus.

Jesus comes to bring us comfort, rest and peace. Jesus comes to share hope with those who are afraid. Jesus comes to offer meaning to those who wonder what the point of living is all about. Jesus comes to share with us the gift of God's grace. Jesus comes to meet us, love us, and heal us. Jesus is the light shining in the darkness that the darkness cannot overcome.

We have that Light of the World in us! Let's acknowledge the darkness, both within and without, but trust in the Light. (Bring those feelings of loss and lack of hope to the Longest Night Service, 12/21 @7:00. That's what that service is all about!) Let's look for flickers of light and love and hope shining and add our light to it.

God's peace to you. Pastor Lynn