

Advent in Narnia - 2019
THROUGH THE WARDROBE by Rev. James C. Ramsey

Texts: Isaiah 9:2, 4-6
John 1:5; 8:12

Preached: 12/1/19

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[IMAGE – snowy forest] *Keep up for the entirety of the Skit!!!*

-----NARNIA THEATER (Lucy and Tumnus)-----

[IMAGE – Lucy and Wardrobe]

Can you think of a time when you had a real sense of adventure and wonder? Did you ever, like Lucy, explore a big dark closet, arms in front of you, hoping to feel cold air and hear snow crunching under your feet? Something in us longs to find a world more like the one we want to believe in than the one that is around us.

[IMAGE – Glimpse of Narnia]

Walking into the Season of Advent can be like passing through the wardrobe. Sometimes our life even looks and feels a bit wintry like Narnia – cold with snow under our feet. But Advent is like Narnia in more ways than the weather. Let it be a magical time set apart from ordinary time: we listen to special music; we decorate our homes, we eat particularly delightful and delicious foods. We experience a heightened sense of excitement and expectation. Those expectations are not only about giving and receiving gifts or attending holiday parties but also about glimpsing a world that is kinder, more just, and more joyful than our everyday world.

[IMAGE – Setting up Nativity]

Taking up again the story of Christ's birth reminds us of God's plans for our world. This is the door we must walk through. There are many glittery trappings during Christmastime, but let them not distract from the True Light.

[IMAGE – Narnia Lamppost]

When Lucy walks through the wardrobe, she finds herself in a snowy forest, it seems a winter wonderland, but she is surprised by one thing that stands out, a light shining, a lamppost among all the trees. Lucy learns from Tumnus that this land of Narnia remains under the spell of the White Witch, who has declared that it will be always winter and never Christmas. Yet the winter,

persistent as it is, has not snuffed out the lamppost. It is a boundary, but also a promise. It is a beacon in the face of the dark, cold spell that lives on the land.

[IMAGE – God calls you]

The light of Advent, signified by the burning candles of our Advent wreath, is the same kind of light...a light that cannot be snuffed out, shining in the darkness of despair, sin and death. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness is not able to overcome it. The light shines on all people and beckons us to be curious and to come and see.

[IMAGE – White Witch]

Lucy must have walked into the wardrobe with the bombing and fires of the London blitz still burning in her mind's eye. The creatures of Narnia live in the grip of a Witch who has frozen their land to ice and turns traitors to stone.

[IMAGE – Is 9-2]

You might walk with darkness or danger of some kind overshadowing your life, stress at work, cancer, debt, broken relationships, depression, fear. God promises through the Prophet Isaiah that, “On those living in a land of deep darkness, light has dawned.”

[IMAGE – Lucy and Lamp Post]

What is your lamp post? Where do you see the light of Christ shining... encouraging you that a “A child has been born for us, a son given to us...the One called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!”