

December 18, 2023  
16<sup>th</sup> Day of Advent

**“The People Who Have Walked in Darkness”**

Read [Isaiah 9:2-7](#)

The prophet Isaiah encourages his people that, although they have walked in deep darkness, a great light will shine on them. A Son will be born to them who will be the Light of the World. He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. In a week we celebrate the birth of this Son who came and brought the light of God to the world. His light is eternal and will shine forever.

Without question it seems like we are walking in a time of deep darkness with so many dark events plaguing the world and our country. The news of these dark events seems to fill our ears and thoughts. It is imperative that we take time apart to contemplate all of the times and places where we see God’s love at work, in the beauty of creation, in the hands of people helping others, in the community of faith caring for and blessing one another. The light of God’s love flows out into the world continuously, even when it may seem to our eyes that we are walking in darkness. At those times we need to be light-bearers.

Loving God, fill us with the experience of your love and open our eyes to see your light. Teach us and help us to be your light-bearers in the world. Amen.

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