

A Great Light

How long? Some of you right now might be wondering. “How long is this sermon, this homily, going to be? How long will this service last? How long before dinner, opening presents? How long before Santa comes??

Some tonight might be asking “How long will I be in the hospital. How long will my loved one be sick, suffer? How long does he have to live? How long will there be such suffering in so many places like Syria and Iraq. How long will terrorists threaten us? How long?”

More than 700 years before the baby Jesus was born the prophet Isaiah asked, “How long? How long do God’s people have to suffer? How long before the Messiah comes? How long before peace and justice prevail over war and oppression?”

We spend a lot of time hearing from Isaiah during Advent and Christmas because Isaiah tells us that one is coming, “a son given to us”, the Messiah, Emmanuel – God with us.

Isaiah describes a great light breaking through the darkness. In his day, Assyria had conquered the northern part of the Holy Land and was threatening to capture Jerusalem and the Southern kingdom. Historians know exactly how long before the entire nation was held captive and many exiled – less than 150 years.

Yet in this time, Isaiah preached about hope, about the great light, about the one who would come. When Jesus was born, a great light filled the fields where the shepherds watched their flocks. Angels filled this great light and announced Jesus’ birth.

Another great light, a star, led wise men from the East to Bethlehem so they could see, worship and adore God’s light and love in the infant Jesus.

The ministry and the miracles of the adult Jesus were signs of the great light of God’s kingdom breaking into the world. John writes, “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it ... this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world and people loved darkness rather than light ...” (1:5, 3:19)

The great light of God’s love in Jesus breaks into the world with his birth – our Christmas celebration. Shepherds and wise men chose light. Herod chose darkness.

The great light of God’s love shines in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The disciples and others chose the light. Pontius Pilate, the Jewish religious authorities, the mob, many chose the darkness.

So it has been ever since – we are those who have chosen to follow, to live, to share the great light of God’s love and there are those who have chosen the darkness of human pride, sin, evil and death. The world saw this choice once again last week in Berlin and Aleppo.

Christmas, celebrating the birth of Christ, is always about our choices – light and darkness. Thus Christmas is more about the future than the past. Many who have walked in darkness now walk in the great light of God's love because of Jesus.

How will God be with us in the future? How will we walk in the light? When we are consumed by the question, "How long?" Let us look and watch and wait for the light.

A Great Light

How long? Some of you right now might be wondering. “How long is this sermon, this homily, going to be? How long will this service last? How long before dinner, opening presents? How long before Santa comes??

Some tonight might be asking “How long will I be in the hospital. How long will my loved one be sick, suffer? How long does he have to live? How long will there be such suffering in so many places like Syria and Iraq. How long will terrorists threaten us? How long?”

More than 700 years before the baby Jesus was born the prophet Isaiah asked, “How long? How long do God’s people have to suffer? How long before the Messiah comes? How long before peace and justice prevail over war and oppression?”

We spend a lot of time hearing from Isaiah during Advent and Christmas because Isaiah tells us that one is coming, “a son given to us”, the Messiah, Emmanuel – God with us.

Isaiah describes a great light breaking through the darkness. In his day, Assyria had conquered the northern part of the Holy Land and was threatening to capture Jerusalem and the Southern kingdom. Historians know exactly how long before the entire nation was held captive and many exiled – less than 150 years.

Yet in this time, Isaiah preached about hope, about the great light, about the one who would come. When Jesus was born, a great light filled the fields where the shepherds watched their flocks. Angels filled this great light and announced Jesus’ birth.

Another great light, a star, led wise men from the East to Bethlehem so they could see, worship and adore God’s light and love in the infant Jesus.

The ministry and the miracles of the adult Jesus were signs of the great light of God’s kingdom breaking into the world. John writes, “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it ... this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world and people loved darkness rather than light ...” (1:5, 3:19)

The great light of God’s love in Jesus breaks into the world with his birth – our Christmas celebration. Shepherds and wise men chose light. Herod chose darkness.

The great light of God’s love shines in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The disciples and others chose the light. Pontius Pilate, the Jewish religious authorities, the mob, many chose the darkness.

So it has been ever since – we are those who have chosen to follow, to live, to share the great light of God’s love and there are those who have chosen the darkness of human pride, sin, evil and death. The world saw this choice once again last week in Berlin and Aleppo.

Christmas, celebrating the birth of Christ, is always about our choices – light and darkness. Thus Christmas is more about the future than the past. Many who have walked in darkness now walk in the great light of God's love because of Jesus.

How will God be with us in the future? How will we walk in the light? When we are consumed by the question, "How long?" Let us look and watch and wait for the light.

A Great Light

How long? Some of you right now might be wondering. “How long is this sermon, this homily, going to be? How long will this service last? How long before dinner, opening presents? How long before Santa comes??

Some tonight might be asking “How long will I be in the hospital. How long will my loved one be sick, suffer? How long does he have to live? How long will there be such suffering in so many places like Syria and Iraq. How long will terrorists threaten us? How long?”

More than 700 years before the baby Jesus was born the prophet Isaiah asked, “How long? How long do God’s people have to suffer? How long before the Messiah comes? How long before peace and justice prevail over war and oppression?”

We spend a lot of time hearing from Isaiah during Advent and Christmas because Isaiah tells us that one is coming, “a son given to us”, the Messiah, Emmanuel – God with us.

Isaiah describes a great light breaking through the darkness. In his day, Assyria had conquered the northern part of the Holy Land and was threatening to capture Jerusalem and the Southern kingdom. Historians know exactly how long before the entire nation was held captive and many exiled – less than 150 years.

Yet in this time, Isaiah preached about hope, about the great light, about the one who would come. When Jesus was born, a great light filled the fields where the shepherds watched their flocks. Angels filled this great light and announced Jesus’ birth.

Another great light, a star, led wise men from the East to Bethlehem so they could see, worship and adore God’s light and love in the infant Jesus.

The ministry and the miracles of the adult Jesus were signs of the great light of God’s kingdom breaking into the world. John writes, “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it ... this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world and people loved darkness rather than light ...” (1:5, 3:19)

The great light of God’s love in Jesus breaks into the world with his birth – our Christmas celebration. Shepherds and wise men chose light. Herod chose darkness.

The great light of God’s love shines in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The disciples and others chose the light. Pontius Pilate, the Jewish religious authorities, the mob, many chose the darkness.

So it has been ever since – we are those who have chosen to follow, to live, to share the great light of God’s love and there are those who have chosen the darkness of human pride, sin, evil and death. The world saw this choice once again last week in Berlin and Aleppo.

Christmas, celebrating the birth of Christ, is always about our choices – light and darkness. Thus Christmas is more about the future than the past. Many who have walked in darkness now walk in the great light of God's love because of Jesus.

How will God be with us in the future? How will we walk in the light? When we are consumed by the question, "How long?" Let us look and watch and wait for the light.

A Great Light

How long? Some of you right now might be wondering. “How long is this sermon, this homily, going to be? How long will this service last? How long before dinner, opening presents? How long before Santa comes??

Some tonight might be asking “How long will I be in the hospital. How long will my loved one be sick, suffer? How long does he have to live? How long will there be such suffering in so many places like Syria and Iraq. How long will terrorists threaten us? How long?”

More than 700 years before the baby Jesus was born the prophet Isaiah asked, “How long? How long do God’s people have to suffer? How long before the Messiah comes? How long before peace and justice prevail over war and oppression?”

We spend a lot of time hearing from Isaiah during Advent and Christmas because Isaiah tells us that one is coming, “a son given to us”, the Messiah, Emmanuel – God with us.

Isaiah describes a great light breaking through the darkness. In his day, Assyria had conquered the northern part of the Holy Land and was threatening to capture Jerusalem and the Southern kingdom. Historians know exactly how long before the entire nation was held captive and many exiled – less than 150 years.

Yet in this time, Isaiah preached about hope, about the great light, about the one who would come. When Jesus was born, a great light filled the fields where the shepherds watched their flocks. Angels filled this great light and announced Jesus’ birth.

Another great light, a star, led wise men from the East to Bethlehem so they could see, worship and adore God’s light and love in the infant Jesus.

The ministry and the miracles of the adult Jesus were signs of the great light of God’s kingdom breaking into the world. John writes, “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it ... this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world and people loved darkness rather than light ...” (1:5, 3:19)

The great light of God’s love in Jesus breaks into the world with his birth – our Christmas celebration. Shepherds and wise men chose light. Herod chose darkness.

The great light of God’s love shines in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The disciples and others chose the light. Pontius Pilate, the Jewish religious authorities, the mob, many chose the darkness.

So it has been ever since – we are those who have chosen to follow, to live, to share the great light of God’s love and there are those who have chosen the darkness of human pride, sin, evil and death. The world saw this choice once again last week in Berlin and Aleppo.

Christmas, celebrating the birth of Christ, is always about our choices – light and darkness. Thus Christmas is more about the future than the past. Many who have walked in darkness now walk in the great light of God's love because of Jesus.

How will God be with us in the future? How will we walk in the light? When we are consumed by the question, "How long?" Let us look and watch and wait for the light.

A Great Light

How long? Some of you right now might be wondering. “How long is this sermon, this homily, going to be? How long will this service last? How long before dinner, opening presents? How long before Santa comes??

Some tonight might be asking “How long will I be in the hospital. How long will my loved one be sick, suffer? How long does he have to live? How long will there be such suffering in so many places like Syria and Iraq. How long will terrorists threaten us? How long?”

More than 700 years before the baby Jesus was born the prophet Isaiah asked, “How long? How long do God’s people have to suffer? How long before the Messiah comes? How long before peace and justice prevail over war and oppression?”

We spend a lot of time hearing from Isaiah during Advent and Christmas because Isaiah tells us that one is coming, “a son given to us”, the Messiah, Emmanuel – God with us.

Isaiah describes a great light breaking through the darkness. In his day, Assyria had conquered the northern part of the Holy Land and was threatening to capture Jerusalem and the Southern kingdom. Historians know exactly how long before the entire nation was held captive and many exiled – less than 150 years.

Yet in this time, Isaiah preached about hope, about the great light, about the one who would come. When Jesus was born, a great light filled the fields where the shepherds watched their flocks. Angels filled this great light and announced Jesus’ birth.

Another great light, a star, led wise men from the East to Bethlehem so they could see, worship and adore God’s light and love in the infant Jesus.

The ministry and the miracles of the adult Jesus were signs of the great light of God’s kingdom breaking into the world. John writes, “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it ... this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world and people loved darkness rather than light ...” (1:5, 3:19)

The great light of God’s love in Jesus breaks into the world with his birth – our Christmas celebration. Shepherds and wise men chose light. Herod chose darkness.

The great light of God’s love shines in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The disciples and others chose the light. Pontius Pilate, the Jewish religious authorities, the mob, many chose the darkness.

So it has been ever since – we are those who have chosen to follow, to live, to share the great light of God’s love and there are those who have chosen the darkness of human pride, sin, evil and death. The world saw this choice once again last week in Berlin and Aleppo.

Christmas, celebrating the birth of Christ, is always about our choices – light and darkness. Thus Christmas is more about the future than the past. Many who have walked in darkness now walk in the great light of God's love because of Jesus.

How will God be with us in the future? How will we walk in the light? When we are consumed by the question, "How long?" Let us look and watch and wait for the light.

A Great Light

How long? Some of you right now might be wondering. “How long is this sermon, this homily, going to be? How long will this service last? How long before dinner, opening presents? How long before Santa comes??

Some tonight might be asking “How long will I be in the hospital. How long will my loved one be sick, suffer? How long does he have to live? How long will there be such suffering in so many places like Syria and Iraq. How long will terrorists threaten us? How long?”

More than 700 years before the baby Jesus was born the prophet Isaiah asked, “How long? How long do God’s people have to suffer? How long before the Messiah comes? How long before peace and justice prevail over war and oppression?”

We spend a lot of time hearing from Isaiah during Advent and Christmas because Isaiah tells us that one is coming, “a son given to us”, the Messiah, Emmanuel – God with us.

Isaiah describes a great light breaking through the darkness. In his day, Assyria had conquered the northern part of the Holy Land and was threatening to capture Jerusalem and the Southern kingdom. Historians know exactly how long before the entire nation was held captive and many exiled – less than 150 years.

Yet in this time, Isaiah preached about hope, about the great light, about the one who would come. When Jesus was born, a great light filled the fields where the shepherds watched their flocks. Angels filled this great light and announced Jesus’ birth.

Another great light, a star, led wise men from the East to Bethlehem so they could see, worship and adore God’s light and love in the infant Jesus.

The ministry and the miracles of the adult Jesus were signs of the great light of God’s kingdom breaking into the world. John writes, “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it ... this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world and people loved darkness rather than light ...” (1:5, 3:19)

The great light of God’s love in Jesus breaks into the world with his birth – our Christmas celebration. Shepherds and wise men chose light. Herod chose darkness.

The great light of God’s love shines in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The disciples and others chose the light. Pontius Pilate, the Jewish religious authorities, the mob, many chose the darkness.

So it has been ever since – we are those who have chosen to follow, to live, to share the great light of God’s love and there are those who have chosen the darkness of human pride, sin, evil and death. The world saw this choice once again last week in Berlin and Aleppo.

Christmas, celebrating the birth of Christ, is always about our choices – light and darkness. Thus Christmas is more about the future than the past. Many who have walked in darkness now walk in the great light of God's love because of Jesus.

How will God be with us in the future? How will we walk in the light? When we are consumed by the question, "How long?" Let us look and watch and wait for the light.

A Great Light

How long? Some of you right now might be wondering. “How long is this sermon, this homily, going to be? How long will this service last? How long before dinner, opening presents? How long before Santa comes??

Some tonight might be asking “How long will I be in the hospital. How long will my loved one be sick, suffer? How long does he have to live? How long will there be such suffering in so many places like Syria and Iraq. How long will terrorists threaten us? How long?”

More than 700 years before the baby Jesus was born the prophet Isaiah asked, “How long? How long do God’s people have to suffer? How long before the Messiah comes? How long before peace and justice prevail over war and oppression?”

We spend a lot of time hearing from Isaiah during Advent and Christmas because Isaiah tells us that one is coming, “a son given to us”, the Messiah, Emmanuel – God with us.

Isaiah describes a great light breaking through the darkness. In his day, Assyria had conquered the northern part of the Holy Land and was threatening to capture Jerusalem and the Southern kingdom. Historians know exactly how long before the entire nation was held captive and many exiled – less than 150 years.

Yet in this time, Isaiah preached about hope, about the great light, about the one who would come. When Jesus was born, a great light filled the fields where the shepherds watched their flocks. Angels filled this great light and announced Jesus’ birth.

Another great light, a star, led wise men from the East to Bethlehem so they could see, worship and adore God’s light and love in the infant Jesus.

The ministry and the miracles of the adult Jesus were signs of the great light of God’s kingdom breaking into the world. John writes, “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it ... this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world and people loved darkness rather than light ...” (1:5, 3:19)

The great light of God’s love in Jesus breaks into the world with his birth – our Christmas celebration. Shepherds and wise men chose light. Herod chose darkness.

The great light of God’s love shines in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The disciples and others chose the light. Pontius Pilate, the Jewish religious authorities, the mob, many chose the darkness.

So it has been ever since – we are those who have chosen to follow, to live, to share the great light of God’s love and there are those who have chosen the darkness of human pride, sin, evil and death. The world saw this choice once again last week in Berlin and Aleppo.

Christmas, celebrating the birth of Christ, is always about our choices – light and darkness. Thus Christmas is more about the future than the past. Many who have walked in darkness now walk in the great light of God's love because of Jesus.

How will God be with us in the future? How will we walk in the light? When we are consumed by the question, "How long?" Let us look and watch and wait for the light.

A Great Light

How long? Some of you right now might be wondering. “How long is this sermon, this homily, going to be? How long will this service last? How long before dinner, opening presents? How long before Santa comes??

Some tonight might be asking “How long will I be in the hospital. How long will my loved one be sick, suffer? How long does he have to live? How long will there be such suffering in so many places like Syria and Iraq. How long will terrorists threaten us? How long?”

More than 700 years before the baby Jesus was born the prophet Isaiah asked, “How long? How long do God’s people have to suffer? How long before the Messiah comes? How long before peace and justice prevail over war and oppression?”

We spend a lot of time hearing from Isaiah during Advent and Christmas because Isaiah tells us that one is coming, “a son given to us”, the Messiah, Emmanuel – God with us.

Isaiah describes a great light breaking through the darkness. In his day, Assyria had conquered the northern part of the Holy Land and was threatening to capture Jerusalem and the Southern kingdom. Historians know exactly how long before the entire nation was held captive and many exiled – less than 150 years.

Yet in this time, Isaiah preached about hope, about the great light, about the one who would come. When Jesus was born, a great light filled the fields where the shepherds watched their flocks. Angels filled this great light and announced Jesus’ birth.

Another great light, a star, led wise men from the East to Bethlehem so they could see, worship and adore God’s light and love in the infant Jesus.

The ministry and the miracles of the adult Jesus were signs of the great light of God’s kingdom breaking into the world. John writes, “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it ... this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world and people loved darkness rather than light ...” (1:5, 3:19)

The great light of God’s love in Jesus breaks into the world with his birth – our Christmas celebration. Shepherds and wise men chose light. Herod chose darkness.

The great light of God’s love shines in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The disciples and others chose the light. Pontius Pilate, the Jewish religious authorities, the mob, many chose the darkness.

So it has been ever since – we are those who have chosen to follow, to live, to share the great light of God’s love and there are those who have chosen the darkness of human pride, sin, evil and death. The world saw this choice once again last week in Berlin and Aleppo.

Christmas, celebrating the birth of Christ, is always about our choices – light and darkness. Thus Christmas is more about the future than the past. Many who have walked in darkness now walk in the great light of God's love because of Jesus.

How will God be with us in the future? How will we walk in the light? When we are consumed by the question, "How long?" Let us look and watch and wait for the light.

A Great Light

How long? Some of you right now might be wondering. “How long is this sermon, this homily, going to be? How long will this service last? How long before dinner, opening presents? How long before Santa comes??

Some tonight might be asking “How long will I be in the hospital. How long will my loved one be sick, suffer? How long does he have to live? How long will there be such suffering in so many places like Syria and Iraq. How long will terrorists threaten us? How long?”

More than 700 years before the baby Jesus was born the prophet Isaiah asked, “How long? How long do God’s people have to suffer? How long before the Messiah comes? How long before peace and justice prevail over war and oppression?”

We spend a lot of time hearing from Isaiah during Advent and Christmas because Isaiah tells us that one is coming, “a son given to us”, the Messiah, Emmanuel – God with us.

Isaiah describes a great light breaking through the darkness. In his day, Assyria had conquered the northern part of the Holy Land and was threatening to capture Jerusalem and the Southern kingdom. Historians know exactly how long before the entire nation was held captive and many exiled – less than 150 years.

Yet in this time, Isaiah preached about hope, about the great light, about the one who would come. When Jesus was born, a great light filled the fields where the shepherds watched their flocks. Angels filled this great light and announced Jesus’ birth.

Another great light, a star, led wise men from the East to Bethlehem so they could see, worship and adore God’s light and love in the infant Jesus.

The ministry and the miracles of the adult Jesus were signs of the great light of God’s kingdom breaking into the world. John writes, “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it ... this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world and people loved darkness rather than light ...” (1:5, 3:19)

The great light of God’s love in Jesus breaks into the world with his birth – our Christmas celebration. Shepherds and wise men chose light. Herod chose darkness.

The great light of God’s love shines in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The disciples and others chose the light. Pontius Pilate, the Jewish religious authorities, the mob, many chose the darkness.

So it has been ever since – we are those who have chosen to follow, to live, to share the great light of God’s love and there are those who have chosen the darkness of human pride, sin, evil and death. The world saw this choice once again last week in Berlin and Aleppo.

Christmas, celebrating the birth of Christ, is always about our choices – light and darkness. Thus Christmas is more about the future than the past. Many who have walked in darkness now walk in the great light of God's love because of Jesus.

How will God be with us in the future? How will we walk in the light? When we are consumed by the question, "How long?" Let us look and watch and wait for the light.

A Great Light

How long? Some of you right now might be wondering. “How long is this sermon, this homily, going to be? How long will this service last? How long before dinner, opening presents? How long before Santa comes??

Some tonight might be asking “How long will I be in the hospital. How long will my loved one be sick, suffer? How long does he have to live? How long will there be such suffering in so many places like Syria and Iraq. How long will terrorists threaten us? How long?”

More than 700 years before the baby Jesus was born the prophet Isaiah asked, “How long? How long do God’s people have to suffer? How long before the Messiah comes? How long before peace and justice prevail over war and oppression?”

We spend a lot of time hearing from Isaiah during Advent and Christmas because Isaiah tells us that one is coming, “a son given to us”, the Messiah, Emmanuel – God with us.

Isaiah describes a great light breaking through the darkness. In his day, Assyria had conquered the northern part of the Holy Land and was threatening to capture Jerusalem and the Southern kingdom. Historians know exactly how long before the entire nation was held captive and many exiled – less than 150 years.

Yet in this time, Isaiah preached about hope, about the great light, about the one who would come. When Jesus was born, a great light filled the fields where the shepherds watched their flocks. Angels filled this great light and announced Jesus’ birth.

Another great light, a star, led wise men from the East to Bethlehem so they could see, worship and adore God’s light and love in the infant Jesus.

The ministry and the miracles of the adult Jesus were signs of the great light of God’s kingdom breaking into the world. John writes, “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it ... this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world and people loved darkness rather than light ...” (1:5, 3:19)

The great light of God’s love in Jesus breaks into the world with his birth – our Christmas celebration. Shepherds and wise men chose light. Herod chose darkness.

The great light of God’s love shines in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The disciples and others chose the light. Pontius Pilate, the Jewish religious authorities, the mob, many chose the darkness.

So it has been ever since – we are those who have chosen to follow, to live, to share the great light of God’s love and there are those who have chosen the darkness of human pride, sin, evil and death. The world saw this choice once again last week in Berlin and Aleppo.

Christmas, celebrating the birth of Christ, is always about our choices – light and darkness. Thus Christmas is more about the future than the past. Many who have walked in darkness now walk in the great light of God's love because of Jesus.

How will God be with us in the future? How will we walk in the light? When we are consumed by the question, "How long?" Let us look and watch and wait for the light.